

## MILITARY

North Korea won't trade nukes for lifting of sanctions  
Page 5



## MILITARY

Soldier killed by roadside bomb in Afghanistan ID'd  
Page 6

## NATION

Thousands still without power after severe storms ravage parts of Southeast, Midwest  
Page 7

► **Clemson's versatile 'D' could challenge LSU in championship** » [Back page](#)

# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

[stripes.com](#)

Volume 78, No. 191 ©SS 2020

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



## Ballistic logistics

Iran's strike on US forces exposes challenge Pentagon faces stopping missile attacks

By DAN LAMOTHE  
*The Washington Post*

**F**or more than an hour, the missiles knifed in with a whoosh, explosions bursting in the night sky. It wasn't clear when they'd stop, or what they'd hit.

U.S., coalition and Iraqi troops hunkered down for the Iranian attack in Iraq on Tuesday night had prepared over several days for such an onslaught following the U.S. drone strike in Baghdad that killed Qassem Soleimani, the Iranian general with involvement in the deaths of hundreds of U.S. troops, according to U.S. officials.

But the attack highlighted an ongoing challenge for the Pentagon: For all its might, the U.S. military had little ability to stop such a missile attack once it was underway.

SEE CHALLENGE ON PAGE 4

**U.S. Army Spc. Justin Wittig stands in front of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, last year. There were no THAADs positioned to defend against Iran's attack in Iraq on Tuesday.**

ADAN CAZAREZ/U.S. Army

## Army to send unit to Pacific to aid efforts to counter China

By TONY CAPACCIO  
*Bloomberg*

The U.S. Army will expand efforts to counter China by deploying a specialized task force to the Pacific capable of conducting information, electronic, cyberspace and missile operations against Beijing.

The unit, which Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy detailed at an event in Washington on Fri-

**The pivot includes greater Army participation in regional war games like the "Defender Pacific" series and deploying a "Security Force Assistance Brigade" in the Indo-Pacific theater next year.**

day, also would be equipped to hit land- and sea-based targets with long-range precision weapons such as hypersonic missiles, possibly clearing the way for Navy

vessels in the event of conflict.

The Army task force would help neutralize some capabilities China and Russia already possess that are intended to keep

U.S. carrier groups away from the Asian mainland, McCarthy said in an interview. It's not clear how quickly the unit, which likely would be based on islands east of Taiwan and the Philippines, can be deployed.

The move is designed to "neutralize all the investments China and Russia have made," McCarthy said. It would be bolstered by a new agreement with the National Reconnaissance Office

that develops and manages U.S. spy satellites, he said. Under that accord, Army tactical units will be better able to tap into information from existing and future low-Earth-orbit satellites, he said.

The pivot would help Defense Secretary Mark Esper achieve a long-sought American goal of shifting more forces from Europe, the Middle East and Africa

SEE CHINA ON PAGE 5

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Aramco's IPO hits record \$29.4B with new option

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabian Oil Co. announced Sunday that its initial public offering raised a record \$29.4 billion, a figure higher than previously announced after the company used a so-called “greenshoe option” to sell millions more shares to meet investors demand.

The company said that the sale of an additional 450 million shares took place during the ini-

tial public offering process.

The oil and gas company, which is majority-owned by the state, began publicly trading on the local Saudi Tadawul exchange on Dec. 11. It hit upwards of \$10 a share on the second day of trading. This gave Aramco a market capitalization of \$2 trillion, making it comfortably the world's most valuable company.

Aramco's additional sales mean the company has publicly floated 1.7% of its shares. It's IPO, even before the added sales, was the

world's largest ever.

The shares sold in the over-allocation option “had been allocated to investors during the book building process and therefore, no additional shares are being offered into the market today,” Aramco said.

Company shares traded down on Sunday, dipping to around 34.7 riyals, or \$9.25 a share, amid heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf between Iran and the United States.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)		0.9746
Euro costs (Jan. 13)	\$1.1397	Thailand (Baht)		30.24
Dollar buys (Jan. 13)	60.8774	Turkey (New Lira)		5.8739
British pound (Jan. 13)	\$1.34	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)		
Japanese yen (Jan. 13)	107.00			
Commercial rates				
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769			
British pound	\$1.3065			
Canada (Dollar)	1.3046			
China (Yuan)	6.9214			
Denmark (Krone)	6.7327			
Egypt (Pound)	15.9036			
Euro	\$1.1101/0.9008			
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7662			
Hungary (Forint)	300.84			
Israel (Shekel)	3.4683			
Japan (Yen)	109.59			
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3035			
Norway (Krone)	8.9022			
Philippines (Peso)	50.55			
Poland (Zloty)	3.82			
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7516			
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3495			
South Korea (Won)	1,159.21			

INTEREST RATES		
Prime rate		4.75
Discount rate		2.25
Federal funds market rate	1	1.25
3-month bill	1	1.25
90-day T-bill	2	1.28

### INTEREST RATES

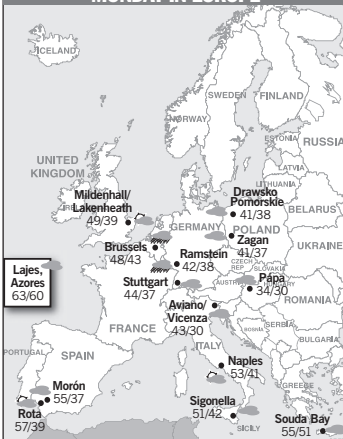
Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.55
3-month bill	1.51
30-year bond	2.28

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

#### MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



#### MONDAY IN EUROPE



#### TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

### TODAY

IN STRIPES

- American Roundup ..... 11
- Classified ..... 13
- Comics ..... 15
- Crossword ..... 15
- Faces ..... 14
- Opinion ..... 16
- Sports ..... 17-24

### STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,  
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

#### EUROPE

#### ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

#### MIDDLE EAST

#### ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

#### PACIFIC

#### ADVERTISING

ICHIRO  
KATAYANAGI

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

CML +81 (42) 552.2511 ext. 77313  
DSN: 227.7313

## PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions  
of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at  
[www.stripes.com/relo](http://www.stripes.com/relo)



## MILITARY

# Looking Rosie at Aviano

First all-female team takes win in bomb-building competition

By NORMAN LLAMAS  
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — They Could Do It!

For the first time since Aviano began hosting its quarterly bomb-building competition, an all-female team entered — and won. The team, called the Bouncing Bettys, completed the Rapid Aircraft Generation and Employment competition last week.

All of the Bouncing Bettys dressed as Rosie the Riveter, the World War II icon whose image appeared on posters proclaiming, “We Can Do It!” The posters were used to recruit women to work in factories and shipyards to produce munitions and war supplies.

The RAGE competition included six evaluated events: a written test, stockpile practices, trailer configuration and reconfiguration, air cargo palletization and a weapons-build, said U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa in a Facebook post congratulating the team on their win.

The competition is a relatively new event, first held in October.

Officials at Aviano could not immediately answer Stars and Stripes inquiries about the competition, but details of the team and the event were included in captions on pictures taken by Airman 1st Class Ericka Woolever, a public affairs Airman at the base's 31st Fighter Wing.

The Bouncing Bettys were Staff Sgt. Ana L. Merkel, a munitions inspector; Staff Sgt. Catharyn M. Clyde, a munitions control supervisor; Staff Sgt. Nicole D. Jarvis, an NCOIC of conventional munitions support; Airman 1st Class Ashlyn B. Martin, a stockpile management technician; Airman Erin N. Brumm, a stockpile management technician, all from the 31st Munitions Squadron; and Senior Airman Audrey M. Naputi, a munitions inspector from the 731st Munitions Squadron. All are based at Aviano.

It was Merkel's idea to put together a team of women to highlight the impact women have on sortie generation, the preparations that are performed for an aircraft's combat flight.

They honored Woman Ordnance Workers through their uniforms and team concept, but also through “outstanding communication and technical performance,” USAFE's Facebook post said.

Following their win, the Bouncing Bettys' names will be etched on plaques, which will be added to the 31st Munitions Squadron's heritage.

“No better way to kick off 2020,” said Bouncing Bettys member Jarvis in a Facebook post sharing photos of the event.

llamas.norman@starsandstripes.com



PHOTOS BY ERICKA A. WOOLEVER/U.S. Air Force

U.S. airmen of the all-female “Bouncing Bettys” team of the 31st Munitions Squadron and the 731st Munitions Squadron compete at the Rapid Aircraft Generation and Employment competition at Aviano Air Base, Italy, on Tuesday.



Above: U.S. airmen from the 31st Munitions Squadron and the 731st Munitions Squadron pose with leadership for a photo at Aviano after their win. Left: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Ana Merkel, a munitions inspector from the 31st Munitions Squadron, conducts an inert bomb build. Merkel developed the idea for the all-female team.

## Hog cholera strikes Okinawa first time in 34 years, forcing cull

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa** — Thousands of pigs are being culled on the Japanese island of Okinawa, where classical swine fever was discovered Wednesday for the first time since 1986, government officials said.

Also known as hog cholera, the highly contagious, fatal, porcine viral disease was confirmed two days after an Uruma city farmer reported pig deaths due to an unknown respiratory ailment, according to a statement from

the Okinawa prefectural government. Since then, the disease has been discovered at two additional farms in Uruma and one in Okinawa city, affecting approximately 5,000 pigs.

Japanese officials are investigating the origins of the outbreak, and while they cautioned people to stay away from the impacted farms, there is no risk to public safety.

“There has never been a reported case where classical swine fever has been transmitted to humans,” the statement said. “There is no possibility that infected pork will be sold at mar-

kets and shops.”

Gov. Denny Tamaki requested support Wednesday from the Naha-based Japan Ground Self-Defense Force's 15th Brigade and 360 Japanese troops have been involved in the killing and burying of hundreds of pigs, the Ministry of Defense website said.

He also ordered farmers within six miles of Uruma city not to transport pigs or boars and to sterilize their farms, the prefecture said.

The infected pigs were slated to be killed by Saturday to try and stop the disease from spreading, the statement said. As of Friday,

1,600 had been killed and were being buried, prefectural spokesman Kazushi Kubota added.

It is unclear how the disease, which affects domestic pigs and wild boars, spread to Okinawa but it can be transmitted from pig to pig as well as by rodents and vermin, the statement said. An outbreak on mainland Japan in 2018 spread to nine prefectures and killed 130,000 pigs in one year.

There were 225,800 pigs in Okinawa, an area roughly the same size as metropolitan Tokyo, as of 2018, Japan's Cabinet Office said.

Classical swine fever comes in

both acute and chronic forms, the World Organisation for Animal Health website said. Animals suffering from the acute form of the disease exhibit symptoms that include fever, diarrhea and purple discoloration and generally die within two weeks.

There is no treatment for the disease. Once a pig has tested positive, all others at that farm must be killed to stop the spread, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries website said.

burke.matt@starsandstripes.com  
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1  
ichihashi.aya@starsandstripes.com  
Twitter: @Ayaichihashi



## MIDEAST

# Ignoring police, Iranians protest downed airplane

By JOSEPH KRAUSS  
AND JON GAMBRELL  
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iranian demonstrators defied a heavy police presence Sunday night to protest their country's days of denials that it shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane carrying 176 people, the latest unrest to rail the capital and soaring tensions with the United States.

Videos posted online showed protesters shouting anti-government slogans and moving through subway stations and sidewalks, many near Azadi, or Freedom, Square after an earlier call for people to demonstrate there. Other videos suggested similar protests were taking place in other Iranian cities.

Meanwhile, in an emotional speech before parliament, the head of the Revolutionary Guard apologized for the shutdown and insisted it was a tragic mistake.

"I swear to almighty God that I wished I was on that plane and had crashed with them and burned but had not witnessed this tragic incident," said Gen. Hossein Salami. "I have never been this embarrassed in my entire life. Never."

Riot police in black uniforms and helmets earlier massed in Vali-e Asr Square, at Tehran University and other landmarks. Revolutionary Guard members patrolled the city on motorbikes, and plainclothes security men were also out in force. People looked down as they walked briskly past police, hoping not to draw attention to themselves.

"After successive national traumas in a short time period, people should be allowed to safely grieve and demand accountability," said Hadi Ghaemi, the executive director of the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran. "Iranians shouldn't have to



MONA HOOGHEFENK, ISNA/AP

A woman attending a candlelight vigil to remember the victims of the Ukraine plane crash Saturday, talks to a policeman at the gate of Amri Kabir University in Tehran, Iran. Demonstrators gathered Sunday around the country to protest Iran's days of denials that it shot down the plane.

risk their lives to exercise their constitutional right to peaceful assembly."

Iranians have expressed anger over the downing of the plane and the misleading explanations from senior officials in the wake of the tragedy. They are also mourning the dead, which included many young people who were studying abroad.

"Even talking about it makes my heart beat faster and makes me sad," said Zahra Razeghi, a Tehran resident.

"The denial and covering up the truth over the past three days greatly added to the suffering and

pain of the families, and me," she added.

Earlier Sunday, hundreds of students gathered at Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University to mourn the victims and protest against authorities for concealing the cause of the crash, the semiofficial ISNA news agency reported.

Some Iranian artists, including famed director Masoud Kimiai, withdrew from an upcoming international film festival. Two state TV hosts resigned in protest over the false reporting about the cause of the plane crash.

President Donald Trump addressed the country's leaders in a tweet, saying "DO NOT KILL YOUR PROTESTERS."

"The World is watching. More importantly, the USA is watching," he tweeted.

A candlelight ceremony late Saturday in Tehran turned into a protest, with hundreds of people chanting against the country's leaders — including Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei — and police dispersing them with tear gas. Protests were also held in the city of Isfahan and elsewhere.

## Challenge: Missile defense weapons were away from targeted area

FROM FRONT PAGE

The challenges include the sheer volume of Iran's missile arsenal, believed to number more than 2,000, along with the Pentagon's scarce number of missile-defense options. Iran launched 16 missiles, with 11 hitting al Asad Air Base west of Baghdad, one landing at a facility in Irbil in northern Iraq and four malfunctioning, Defense Secretary Mark Esper said.

One senior U.S. military official, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity due to the issue's ongoing sensitivity, said that a ballistic missile is "obviously a significant threat for anybody." In the face of one, the official said, "You become a small target, if you will. You stay away from openings, windows, that kind of thing. It's what you would do in a tornado-like scenario."

The best missile-defense weapons that may have been able to help — Patriot missiles and a newer system known as Terminal High-Alitude Area Defense, or THAAD — were not in position in the two locations in Iraq that Iran attacked. The Army has 15 Patriot units, many of them committed to protecting U.S. interests elsewhere in the world. Four are permanently deployed to Europe and Asia, to guard against possible aggression from Russia and North Korea.

With such a limited number of systems in the U.S. arsenal, the Pentagon assessed last fall that the best place to position additional missile-defense weapons in the Middle East was in Saudi Arabia, which has faced regular attacks from Iranian-backed forces in Yemen, two senior defense officials said.

Adjustments will be made now, one of those senior officials said, though he declined to say how. U.S. officials believed for months that it was unlikely Iran would launch missiles at Americans in Iraq, considering the diplomatic relations between Iraq and



CAPT. ADAN CAZAREZ/U.S. Army

A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) sits in position at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, last February.

Iran. That was before U.S. forces killed Soleimani, however.

The major challenge to protecting bases like al Asad is the scarcity of missile-defense weapons, and significant number of other bases that the United States must protect, said Becca Wassar, a policy analyst at the Rand Corp. who studies war gaming and defense in the Middle East. Other bases that need protection include Camp Arifjan in Kuwait, Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates and Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar — some of which have fighter jets and other expensive weapons on them. The Navy's fleet in the Middle East also has headquarters within range in Bahrain.

"Patriots are high-demand, scarce assets, and they are, furthermore, point defenses," he said. "And so their defended area is relatively modest. Patriots are very good at doing what they are designed to do, but they can't be everywhere at once."

## Esper: 'Didn't see' proof of embassy attack plan

By JOSEPH MARKS,  
JULIE EILPERIN  
AND DREW HARWELL  
The Washington Post

Top Trump administration officials struggled to defend an airstrike that killed a senior Iranian general Sunday morning, acknowledging that they could not confirm President Donald Trump's Friday assertion that Iranians planned to attack four embassies.

On CBS' "Face the Nation," Defense Secretary Mark Esper said he "didn't see" evidence of an Iranian plan to attack four U.S. embassies. But he said he "share(s) the president's view that probably — my expectation was they were going to go after our embassies. The embassies are the most prominent display of American presence in a country."

On Friday, Trump said that senior Iranian general Qassem Soleimani killed by a U.S. drone strike had been planning attacks on four U.S. embassies, a claim made to justify the decision.

That assertion was at odds with intelligence assessments from senior officials in Trump's administration. On Friday, a senior administration official and a senior defense official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss classified information, told The Washington Post they were

only aware of vague intelligence about a plot against the embassy in Baghdad and that the information did not suggest a fully formed plot. Neither official said there were threats against multiple embassies.

On CNN's State of the Union Sunday, Esper defended the strike on Soleimani, saying it "disrupted attacks" and "reset terms with Iran."

White House National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien also defended the strike, saying the Iranian regime is "having a very bad week" and that the United States would continue a "maximum pressure campaign" against the regime on ABC's "This Week."

He also said the president has shown "incredible restraint" in the face of regular provocation from Iran and has also been "modest in his dealings" with other countries.

But O'Brien did not confirm Trump's claim that the White House had received intelligence that Soleimani, the head of Iran's elite Quds Force, was planning "imminent" attacks against four U.S. embassies.

"What the president said is consistent with what we've been saying. We had very strong intelligence that they were looking to kill and main Americans in American facilities in the region," O'Brien said on "Fox News Sunday."

## MILITARY

# N. Korea won't trade weapons for sanctions lift

By KANGA KONG  
Bloomberg News

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea won't rely on the personal relationship between its leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump as it doesn't intend to trade its nuclear weapons for a lift of sanctions, its state-run media said, citing a Foreign Ministry adviser.

"There will never be such negotiations as that in Vietnam, in which we proposed exchanging a core nuclear facility of the country for the lift of some United Nations sanctions," Kim Kye Gwan was quoted as saying by the Korean Central News Agency. "There is no need for us to be present in such talks, in which there is only

unilateral pressure, and we have no desire to barter something for other thing at the talks like traders."

The dialogue will reopen only under the condition of Washington's "absolute agreement" on North Korea's demands, which the U.S. is neither ready for nor able to do, he said. "We know well about the way we should go and will go on our way."

The statement came a day after South Korea's presidential national security adviser Chung Eui-yong told reporters that Trump asked Seoul to send greetings to Kim, whose birthday was Wednesday. This prompted hopes that the renewed tensions between the two adversaries could



Jon Chol Jun/AP

**A group of government officials participate in a run on the first official "sports day" of the new year at the Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea, on Sunday. North Korea's state-run media said Saturday that the country will not trade nuclear weapons for a lift of sanctions by the U.S.**

thaw again and they would meet for next round of talks.

Playing down Seoul's efforts to mediate Washington-Pyongyang relations, the North Korean dip-

lomat also said that Trump separately sent Kim a birthday letter through a "special" liaison channel between the leaders.

While leader Kim's relationship

with Trump is "not bad," it will be "stupid" to expect such ties will help restart talks between the two nations, the Foreign Ministry's Kim said.

## Two Spangdahlem airmen found dead in dormitory room

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The two airmen who were found dead in a base dormitory room at Spangdahlem Air Base on Thursday were both airmen first class from the same squad-

ron, base officials said in a statement Sunday.

The airmen were identified as Xavier Leapheart, 20, and Azieus Whitehurst, 20. They were assigned to the 52nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, one of two maintenance squadrons at Spangdahlem that services the

52nd Fighter Wing's F-16 combat jets.

The airmen were found unresponsive at about 6:30 p.m. and pronounced dead 20 minutes later by emergency responders.

Their deaths are under investigation, officials said.

"It is always difficult to lose

valued members of our team," said Col. David Epperson, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, in a statement Sunday. "Our sincerest and heartfelt condolences go out to the friends and families that have been affected by this tragedy."

Whitehurst is survived by his father and mother, Davin and

Maria Whitehurst.

Leapheart is survived by his father, Malik Muhammad, and mother Pamela Leapheart.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com  
Twitter: @stripesktown

## 4 Iraqi troops wounded by attack on air base

By QASSEM ABDUL-ZAHRA  
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Four members of Iraq's military were wounded Sunday in a rocket attack targeting an air base just north of Baghdad where American trainers are present, Iraqi security officials said.

The attack by at least six rockets came just days after Iran fired ballistic missiles at two bases in Iraq that house U.S. forces, causing no casualties.

Recent heightened tensions between the U.S. and Iran were sparked last month when a rocket attack killed an American contractor

at a base in Iraq. The U.S. has blamed that attack and others on Iran-backed militias.

Saturday's attack wounded an Iraqi air force officer and three enlisted men, Iraqi security officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

The rockets struck Balad air base, which hosts American trainers, advisers and a company that provides maintenance services for F-16 aircraft. Some rockets fell on a restaurant inside the airbase, the officials said.

The base is located some 50 miles north of Baghdad.

A statement from the Iraqi army's official media office confirmed the attack but said eight rockets hit the base, and that two officers had been wounded. The difference in accounts could not immediately be reconciled.

"There are American experts, trainers and advisers at the base," said one defense official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to media.

The U.S. and Iran recently stepped back from escalating tensions following the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top general, in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad. A senior Iraqi leader of an Iran-backed militia was also killed.

## China: Army began experimenting with task force in 2018

### FROM FRONT PAGE

to the Pacific, better positioning the U.S. to take on "peer competitor" China and historic rival Russia. The extent to which the current tensions with Iran upset that plan remains to be determined but the Army is pressing ahead.

Under McCarthy's vision, the move would allow the Army to create a new paradigm in the Pacific where ground forces would

"punch a hole" in enemy defenses for air and naval forces.

Now, the ground-based unit in those island chains can create the support "for air and sea," McCarthy said.

China's military doctrine calls for a so-called "anti-access" strategy, backed by long-range anti-ship missiles and space-based surveillance capabilities, intended to keep U.S. aircraft carrier strike groups well beyond the so-called

first and second island chains. The first island chain extends from the Kuril islands down to Borneo, while the second island chain generally extends from just east of Japan to Guam and down toward New Guinea.

The pivot includes greater Army participation in regional war games such as the "Defender Pacific" series and deploying a "Security Force Assistance Brigade" next year for the Indo-Pa-

cific theater similar to ones set up and deployed to Afghanistan, he said.

The Army started experimenting with the task force in 2018. The 17th Field Artillery Brigade from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington State conducted nine major training exercises, plus simulations and war games to evaluate concepts.

**MILITARY DISCOUNTS**  
SPECIAL FARES WITH OUR PARTNERS

**ABC**  
your TRAVEL SERVICE

in partnership with

AIRFRANCE  
KLM  
DELTA

### MILITARY FLIGHTS

For all Military active, Reservist, Veterans and their family members:

Detroit	✈	from € 797
New York	✈	from € 696
Tampa	✈	from € 816
Washington	✈	from € 836

Other special prices possible from all other airports.

Hotline: +49 (0) 621-72920

internet@abctravel.de

www.abctravel.de

Flights from Jul. 24 to Aug. 5, 20. RT to all german airports. Prices starting from, including all taxes, based on availability. Get Military discount fares all year! ABC Travel Service e.K., Gorkheimstr. 9, 68309 Mannheim

## MILITARY

# US to expel some Saudi trainees after FBI probe

By DEVLIN BARRETT  
AND JOHN HUDSON  
*The Washington Post*

At least a dozen Saudi military trainees in the United States could be sent back to their home country after an FBI investigation found connections to extremist rhetoric, possession of child pornography, and a failure by a small number of people to report alarming behavior by the gunman who killed three people last month at a Pensacola, Fla., military base, according to people familiar with the matter.

Federal law enforcement and military officials are preparing to announce developments in the case. The FBI has been treating the shooting as a terrorist incident, particularly after discovering an anti-American screed posted by the gunman just before the December shooting, according to the people familiar with the matter. They requested anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly discuss decisions by government officials.

Several of the Saudis were found to possess child pornography, while others were found to have been part of a social media conversation that included alarming support for extremism, according to a person familiar with the matter.

A spokeswoman for the Justice Department and a spokeswoman for the FBI declined to comment. The planned expulsion of the Saudi trainees was first reported by CNN.

Lt. Col. Robert Carver, a Department of Defense spokesman, said, "In the wake of the Pensacola tragedy, the Department of Defense restricted to classroom training programs foreign military students from Saudi Arabia while we conducted a review and enhancement of our foreign student vetting procedures. That training pause is still in place while we implement new screening and security measures."

He referred questions about the program students to the Justice Department.

The Saudi government has been cooperative in the FBI investigation, even going so far as to help American investigators link particular social media accounts to individuals, according to a U.S. official.

The Pensacola gunman, a Royal Saudi Air Force member, was training at the base in December when he used a legally purchased 9mm handgun to go on a rampage, authorities have said. He was shot dead by a sheriff's deputy.

Investigators believe the gunman posted a screed on Twitter expressing hatred of U.S. foreign policy and military action, according to a law enforcement official.

The FBI sent a letter to Apple Inc., asking for the company's help to open two iPhones that belonged to the Pensacola gunman. Apple has resisted any efforts to alter the encryption on their phones in order to make it possible for the company to give government investigators access to the data on such phones, saying to do so would weaken the security of all their customers' devices.

"Even though the shooter is dead, the FBI, out of an abundance of caution, has secured court authorization to search the contents of the phones in order to exhaust all leads in this high priority national security investigation," FBI General Counsel Dana Boente wrote.

"Unfortunately, FBI has been unable to access the contents of the phones," the letter said, even after asking private technology experts if they could help agents crack them.

In a statement, Apple said it had already helped FBI agents on the Pensacola case by sharing relevant data in its cloud storage. Apple and other companies have said that encryption on phones is an important safeguard protecting millions of consumers against hackers and other criminals.



VINCENT E. ZUKE/U.S. Navy

## Sea Hawk inspection

Aviation Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Tristan Garza of Amarillo, Texas, inspects the rotors on an MH-60 Sea Hawk helicopter Saturday on the flight deck of amphibious assault ship USS America in the East China Sea. The America Expeditionary Strike Group is in the 7th Fleet area of operations to enhance interoperability with allies and serve as a ready response force in the Indo-Pacific region.

## Temporary ruling blocking discharge of HIV-positive service members upheld

By SPENCER S. HSU  
*The Washington Post*

A federal appeals court Friday allowed a lawsuit to go forward challenging the U.S. military's decision to discharge certain service members who test HIV-positive, saying it appears the Pentagon unlawfully discriminates against them based on a medical condition.

The unanimous decision by a three-judge panel of the Richmond, Va.-based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit marked a setback for the Pentagon, which has sought to toss out the lawsuit by two airmen whom the Air Force moved to force out after the results of health screenings last year.

The Defense Department restricts newly diagnosed personnel from deploying to combat zones such as Afghanistan. The govern-

ment asserts that the risk of HIV transmission is heightened on the battlefield, where it may be more difficult to maintain treatment.

Writing for the panel, U.S. Circuit Judge James A. Wynn Jr. said plaintiffs were likely to show the military acted "arbitrarily or capriciously" in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act by discharging service members without an individualized fitness assessment.

"A ban on deployment may have been justified at a time when HIV treatment was less effective at managing the virus and reducing transmission risks," Wynn wrote in the 46-page opinion. "But any understanding of HIV that could justify this ban is outmoded and at odds with current science. Such obsolete understandings cannot justify a ban, even under a deferential standard of review and

even according appropriate deference to the military's professional judgments."

The appeals court was hearing the Pentagon's challenge to a February ruling by Judge Leonie Brinkema of the U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., who temporarily blocked the military from enforcing its policy nationally.

Lawyers for the two discharged plaintiffs, identified in court papers by the aliases Richard Roe and Victor Voe, assert that at least four other active-duty Air Force members face discharge because of the restrictions and that hundreds of others could be affected by the policy.

A separate pending case in Virginia challenges the Army's similar HIV-related policy.

Those diagnosed with HIV are still prohibited from joining the military.

## City says soldier, 21, killed in Afghanistan was from Illinois

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
*Stars and Stripes*

KABUL, Afghanistan — One of the first two U.S. service members killed in Afghanistan in 2020 was a 21-year-old from the Chicago suburbs, according to the city of Aurora, Ill., via a statement on Facebook on Sunday.

Miguel Villalon, whose rank was not mentioned, was killed in action Saturday when his vehicle struck a roadside bomb in south Afghanistan, the statement said.

The Pentagon has not released the identity of either soldier killed in the attack



Villalon

ment, which included a photo said to be Villalon. "Miguel was a young soldier with

dreams for the future and a desire to make a difference in the world today."

Villalon's high school, East Aurora School District 131, also posted a statement on Facebook: "We extend our sincere condolences to Miguel's family, friends, and all those who loved him."

Aurora is west of Chicago and about an hour away from the town of Hazel Crest, home of another U.S. soldier slain this month: Spc. Henry Mayfield Jr., 23, was killed in a Jan. 5 attack in Kenya.

Two U.S. service members were wounded in the Saturday attack, which occurred in the southern province of Kandahar, a

NATO Resolute Support spokesman said.

The Taliban immediately claimed responsibility in a statement from spokesman Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, The Associated Press reported.

More than 2,400 American troops have died in Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion launched in response to the 9/11 attacks. Most of the 20,000 international troops now in Afghanistan are focused on training and advising Afghan security forces, with a smaller contingent taking part in a counterterrorism mission.

lawrence.jp@stripes.com  
Twitter: @jplawrence3



## NATION

# Recovery begins after storms hit South, Midwest

Associated Press

Thousands remained without electrical power Sunday morning after weekend storms ravaged parts of the Southeast and Midwest, causing 11 deaths, overturning cars, uprooting trees and reducing buildings to rubble.

The National Weather Service said it was a tornado packing winds of at least 134 mph that hit Alabama's Pickens County on Saturday, killing three. Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey praised the state's first responders Sunday in a statement expressing grief over the loss of life.

"This morning, I have reached out to both the county leadership as well as the legislative delegation to offer my deepest condolences in this terrible loss of life," Ivey's statement said.

Storm-related fatalities were also reported in Texas due to icy weather and in Louisiana, where winds were so strong that a trailer home was lifted off its foundation and carried several hundred feet. A man drowned in Oklahoma and the storms even touched the Midwest with at least one death on an icy highway in Iowa. Hundreds of thousands of people were left without power from Texas to Ohio, parts of highways were closed in Oklahoma and Arkansas due to flooding and hundreds of flights were canceled at Chicago's international airports.

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson declared a state of emergency to assist crews working to restore power around the state.

Two first responders were

killed and another was critically injured in Lubbock, Texas, on Saturday morning after they were hit by a vehicle while working the scene of a traffic accident in icy conditions, officials said.

Police Officer Nicholas Reyna, 27, who had been with the department for one year, died at the scene. Firefighter Lt. David Hill, 39, was taken to a local hospital where he later died. Firefighter Matthew Dawson, 30, was hospitalized in critical condition.

Lubbock Police Chief Floyd Mitchell called it an "extremely tragic day" for the city.

"If people would respect road conditions, things like this wouldn't have to happen," said Lubbock Fire Chief Shaun Fogerson.

Another person died in Texas on Friday night when a car flipped into a creek in Dallas as severe thunderstorms passed through. Lightning from Friday's stormy weather was suspected of causing fires that burned two houses but caused no injuries in the North Texas cities of Burleson and Mansfield.

A man drowned near Kiowa, Okla., after he was swept away in floodwaters, the Oklahoma Highway Patrol said Saturday. Randall Hyatt, 58, of Wardville was overwhelmed by rushing water while getting out of his stalled truck.

The Iowa State Patrol said roads were caked with ice early Saturday when a semitrailer on Interstate 80 overturned, killing a passenger in the truck east of Iowa City.



ADAM ROBISON, THE NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI DAILY JOURNAL/AP

**A downed tree rests on top of Anthony Dalrymple's home on Community Road in Baldwin, Miss., after a small tornado moved through the area Saturday morning. Dalrymple was in the room that was struck during the time the storm passed through.**

In Alabama, three people were confirmed killed near Carrollton in Pickens County, the National Weather Service in Birmingham tweeted. The Alabama Emergency Management Agency said the deaths were caused by an "embedded tornado within a long line of intense thunderstorms."

Earlier Saturday, in northwestern Louisiana, firefighters found the bodies of Jerry W. Franks, 79, and Mary Sue Franks, 65, near their demolished trailer in Benton, the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office said via Facebook. The winds were so strong the home of the couple, who were the in-laws of a parish deputy, was moved 200 feet from its foundation.

Willie Davis owns a barn near where the Franks lived. He told KTBS-TV that this wasn't the first time he'd seen storms like this.

"Four or five times that I've known that (storms) have been through, they hit, tearing down trees and the barn and stuff like

that," Willie Davis said. "But that's about all it normally does every time... this is the first time we've had any casualties."

The National Weather Service in Shreveport said a tornado with winds of around 135 mph had touched down in Bossier Parish. Drone footage showed smashed buildings, a large vehicle flipped on its side, toppled trees and debris scattered over a large area.

Also in Louisiana, Raymond Holden, 75, was killed in his bed when a tree fell on his home in Oil City, crushing him, according to the Caddo Parish Coroner's Office.

In Tennessee, damage was widespread throughout Shelby County, the state's most populous county, which includes Memphis. There were numerous downed trees and power poles, some of which will need to be replaced, according to the utility.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation said portions of several highways in the south-

eastern part of the state were closed due to flooding. The Arkansas Department of Transportation reported that portions of several state highways across the state, particularly in southeastern Arkansas, were closed due to downed trees, power lines and flooding.

The storm, which brought the threat of ice and snow to the Chicago area, prompted the cancellation of more than 1,200 flights Saturday at Chicago's two main airports. Most cancellations occurred at Chicago's O'Hare International, according to the Chicago Department of Aviation's online flight-tracking website.

High winds and icy weather were factors in power outages affecting tens of thousands of people in the South and the Northeast. The PowerOutage.US website, which tracks outages, reported more than 40,000 outages in New York. More than 28,000 were without power in the Carolinas on Sunday morning.



DAVID CARSON, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

**William Buttricks, who works at Americas Best Value Inn, looks at the large snow flakes while shoveling the incline to the parking lot Saturday in Lake St. Louis, Mo. The snow marked the beginning of the end for a multiday rainstorm that brought up to six inches of rain in the St. Louis area.**



HENRIETTA WILDSMITH, THE SHREVEPORT (LA.) TIMES/AP

**People clean up the classrooms of Benton Middle School in Benton, La., on Saturday. The school lost its roof in Friday's severe weather.**

## NATION

## Residents restless as Puerto Rico shakes

By Jim Wyss  
Miami Herald

GUANICA, Puerto Rico — Eliecer Lugo was evacuating his shattered home on Saturday when he was jolted by a magnitude 5.9 aftershock.

Then he heard a roar from the mountain behind him.

A boulder the size of a jet ski tumbled down the cliff, bounced over a house, broke through a concrete fence and came to rest by the bumper of his neighbor's car. Her daughter was in the back seat.

Southern Puerto Rico has been gripped by a series of tremors that began Dec. 28 and peaked on Tuesday with a magnitude 6.4 earthquake. Since then, hundreds of aftershocks have followed.

Guanica — a small coastal town on a pleasant inlet — has taken the brunt of the damage. More than 150 buildings have either been destroyed or affected, including city hall and the local school. Saturday's aftershock — the most powerful yet since Tuesday's "mainshock" — brought fresh pain. One of the principle bridges into town was closed after cracks appeared in its surface.

On Saturday, Gov. Wanda Vazquez reassured jittery islanders that the aftershocks were to be expected and would likely continue for days or weeks.

The U.S. Geological Survey also said that the most likely scenario is for aftershocks to continue at

diminishing rates and strength for the next 30 days. However, it said there's a 20% chance of a "doublet" — an earthquake of equal intensity to Tuesday's 6.4 — occurring over the next month. In addition, it assigned a 3% chance that a larger quake might hit during that time period.

Also Saturday, Vazquez said initial estimates are that \$59 billion has been affected by the earthquakes and that damages could total at least \$110 million.

But she said it was a moving target, as some buildings have to be reinspected — and damage estimates reassessed — after each serious shake.

Despite the continued rumbling, recovery efforts are underway. On Saturday, teams of workers were replacing transformers and powerlines as structural engineers scoured Guanica trying to assess the damage. Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority said 96% of its 1.4 million customers now have electricity, although Guanica and others on the center-southern coast were still largely powerless.

Standing in downtown Guanica, Juan Alicia Flores, the president of Puerto Rico's Engineering College, CIAPR, said there's no reason so many homes should have been destroyed.

"I've been struck by what I've seen, but not surprised," he said.

"We don't have a problem with building codes here, what we have is a problem with people building



CARLOS GIUSTI/AP

**Cars are crushed under a home that collapsed after an earthquake hit Guanica, Puerto Rico, last week. Southern Puerto Rico has been experiencing tremors since Dec. 28.**

informally," that is, ignoring the codes.

The phenomena of shoddily built houses next to sturdy ones has created an odd patchwork of destruction. Perfectly good structures stand next to buildings that have crumbled or collapsed entirely.

Like other towns on the hard hit southern coast, Guanica was a virtual ghost town Saturday. Most of the residents have joined

the estimated 6,000 people who are staying at outdoor emergency shelters or have gone to stay with relatives on more stable ground.

William Melendez, 59, had remained behind to help repair a restaurant. When Saturday's aftershock hit, he stepped outside and watched a house across the street, which had been previously destroyed, start to shake and heave.

"That building over there was

moving like it was a toy," he said. "You just don't ever get used to it."

Like others, Melendez worried that Guanica — already hobbled by a decade-long recession and an exodus of its youth — would not fully recover from this latest hit.

"Even the owners of this restaurant aren't sure they want to come back here," he said. "The recovery is going to be hard."

## Researchers solve Amish medical mystery

By JEREMY OLSON

(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

Research led by Mayo Clinic has solved a 2-decade-old mystery about why so many otherwise healthy children and young people in Amish communities have been dying from sudden unexplained cardiac deaths.

Examining the DNA of four Amish siblings who suffered cardiac deaths while playing or exercising, researchers found they all had a duplication of specific genetic material that put them at risk.

Further research found the same genetic defect in children

from other Amish families who suffered unexplained cardiac deaths — and that the defect could be passed down only if both birth parents carried the defect.

Genetic testing wasn't sophisticated enough to find the defect after the deaths of the first two adolescents in 2004, and before the more recent deaths of two of their siblings. But the discovery now provides a way to find out if future generations of children are at risk, said Dr. Michael Ackerman of Mayo's Windland Smith Rice Sudden Death Genomics Laboratory.

"What we have for this community is a gold standard biomarker

for them to figure out who are the carriers," he said. He said there are no known heart scans or tests that identify the at-risk children.

The genetic defect in these children is linked to the practice in some Amish communities of close relatives marrying and having children together.

Screening and genetic counseling could dissuade carriers of the defect from having children together, though Ackerman said that could be disruptive to the Amish social order. He said researchers hope that ongoing work will find medications or treatments that can protect at-risk children. Families also can

consider having defibrillators implanted in children who received "double doses" of the genetic defect from their parents.

The discovery was reported in the medical journal JAMA Cardiology. Ackerman said the researchers studied cases from Amish communities in Delaware, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Iowa, and that they all probably trace back to the same ancestry and "founder gene." Despite stereotypes of shunning technology, the Amish families have been open to medical testing and to taking steps to prevent the risks of cardiac deaths in their children, Ackerman said.

## 5 injured in Colo. shooting

Associated Press

AURORA, Colo. — Three juveniles and two adults were shot and wounded at an apartment complex in Colorado, police said early Sunday.

The five victims — two girls, one boy and two adult men — were hospitalized in serious condition but expected to survive, Aurora police spokesman Officer Matthew Longshore told The Associated Press in an email.

Police responded to reports of a shooting just before 11 p.m. Saturday, Longshore said. Preliminary information indicated that there had been a party at one of the apartments.

Police described the scene as near Liff Avenue and Buckley Road, a busy commercial intersection. Police released a description of one suspect, indicating no one was immediately taken into custody.

Longshore said there were "possibly other suspects," but police were still in the midst of interviews Sunday morning. Longshore said a motive wasn't immediately clear.

Aurora is about 10 miles east of Denver.

## Hanukkah attack leads to rise in handgun applications

Associated Press

MONEY, N.Y. — The number of residents seeking to own handguns has risen sharply in a New York community shaken last month by a machete attack that injured five men during a Hanukkah celebration.

The Journal News reports 73 pistol permit applications have been filed with the Rockland County Clerk's Office since the Dec. 28 attack at a rabbi's home

in Monsey, a hamlet in the town of Ramapo northwest of New York City.

That compares to 51 applications the office received during the eight weeks prior to the stabbing, County Clerk Paul Piperato told the newspaper.

Sixty-eight of the new applications came from Ramapo residents, including 31 from Monsey.

"It's definitely because of this incident," Piperato told the news-

paper, referring to the attack. "In some way, shape or form, they want to defend themselves."

Chief William Barbera of the Rockland County Sheriff's Department says an application is the first step in a months-long process. Applicants are required to be fingerprinted and undergo a background check and firearms training before the paperwork is submitted to a licensing officer.

An academy run by veterans

of the Israeli Defense Forces has been providing weapons training in Ramapo's synagogues since the machete attack, The Journal News reports.

Its trainers have been advising Jewish residents to seek untrained pistol permits.

"The goal is to be able to carry at synagogues and not to just possess at home and take to the range," said Yonatan Stern, the academy's director.



## NATION

# Yang faces major hurdles ahead of caucuses

By SARA BURNETT  
Associated Press

**DAVENPORT, Iowa** — On a recent swing through Iowa, Andrew Yang was moving through his stump speech, a string of stories and statistics that can sound like an economics seminar. There was talk of flawed indicators and his signature plan to give a monthly check to every American. He rambled about a dark and near future where America's highways are filled with trucks driven by robots.

But with the first votes of the Democratic primary due to be cast within weeks, a woman in a cramped coffee shop had a more immediate concern for the 44-year-old entrepreneur who has become one of the surprise survivors of the long contest: What if we go to caucus for you on Feb. 3, she asked, and you don't have enough support to win delegates? Why should we waste our votes?

And the candidate who lives to talk about number crunching, data, and his plan to use a Power Point during his State of the Union address, assured the woman in Davenport that she didn't need to worry. "We have done the math," he said, a nod to his campaign slogan Make America Think Harder, abbreviated on hats and pins as just MATH.

But major challenges remain for a campaign that has compared itself to a startup and that saw most of its early success online, with supporters who were mostly young and male. Yang did not meet Democratic National Committee polling requirements to participate in next Tuesday's debate, the first time he's failed to make the stage this election cycle.

A Des Moines Register/CNN poll released Friday showed him with 5% support in Iowa, well behind the front-runners: former Vice President Joe Biden, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and former South Bend, Ind., Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

Yang and his supporters complain that his campaign hasn't received as much media coverage as it deserves. This week a cable news station included him in a graphic showing recent fundraising totals — but mistakenly used a photo of Geoff Yang, founder of a Silicon Valley venture capital firm, rather than the candidate.

Andrew Yang said he raised enough money last quarter to reach voters in the final weeks before voting starts and continues to see strong fundraising numbers.

"Americans are very smart and they recognize the truth when they hear it, and their contributions have given us a chance to make this case to the American people out there, all through the primary season," Yang said after a stop in Tipton, Iowa, a rural community in a county that supported Republican Donald Trump in 2016.

Yang said his goal in Iowa is to surprise people by being "on the leader board," though he wouldn't say what place he needs to finish in.

"We'll be here the whole spring," he said.

Yang's core message has focused on the changing economy and millions of jobs lost to automation and artificial intelligence, particularly in states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin, where voters were



REBECCA F. MILLER, THE GAZETTE/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang, left, speaks last week at a campaign event at The Jitney in Monticello, Iowa.

swayed by Trump's promises to bring back American jobs. He says companies like Amazon, Google and Facebook that make money off automation and data should be taxed more to pay for his so-called freedom dividend, the \$1,000 monthly payment Yang would give to Americans 18 and older.

Iowa Democratic strategist Jeff Link said he's been impressed with the way Yang has been able to share his point of view on the changing economy, make it real for voters and talk about it in an approachable way. But Link said there are many undecided Iowa voters who will be making up their minds in the coming weeks,

and while having millions in a campaign fund is helpful, not qualifying for the debate stage is "a big deal."

"The No. 1 thing for voters is who is the candidate most likely to beat Trump," Link said. "It's hard to argue why he's the best candidate if you can't make the debate."

Jerry Steofen, who was a union plumber for 42 years and farms outside Tipton, attended Yang's event there but said he was glad to see someone talking about the loss of manufacturing jobs. The 62-year-old said he has narrowed his choices to Yang, Sanders and Buttigieg.

Steofen said he believes Yang's

idea of giving \$1,000 a month to people could work. But he said it might be a little too out there for many in his farming community.

"They think it's just the craziest idea they ever heard," he said. "They really do."

Allison Ambrose, 57, an accounting professor from Davenport, called Yang a "breath of fresh air" but is also considering Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar.

"He knows the solutions to the problems we don't even know we have," Ambrose said, though she also has her concerns. "Maybe because he's so different, and his lack of experience and his youth, that I'm not sure how electable he is."

## Despite contrary evidence, Ukraine theory endures

By AMANDA SEITZ,  
ERIC TUCKER  
AND RICHARD LARDNER  
Associated Press

With President Donald Trump's impeachment trial set to begin in the Senate, some Republican allies continue to promote a discredited theory that accuses Ukraine of interfering in the 2016 U.S. election to keep him from winning.

The notion, which is not supported by U.S. intelligence agencies, has nonetheless been embraced by a president reluctant to acknowledge the reality of Russian election interference, and anxious to show he had reason to be suspicious of Ukraine as the U.S. witheld crucial military aid last year.

The president's demand that Ukraine look into its own purported interference and investigate a political rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, while the U.S. witheld the aid is at the heart of the congressional investigation that produced Trump's impeachment in the House on charges of

abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

As U.S. authorities collected evidence in 2016 that Russia had hacked Democratic National Committee servers, former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort suggested Ukraine, not



Trump

Russia, had likely committed the attack, his deputy Rick Gates later told the FBI.

That September, Trump confided to Roger Stone tweeted, "The only interference in the U.S. election is from Hillary's friends in Ukraine," referring to Trump opponent, Hillary Clinton.

But Trump's FBI director rejected those allegations. U.S. intelligence agencies blame Russia for interfering on Trump's behalf, and special counsel Robert Mueller has charged 25 Russians with

hacking Democratic email accounts and waging a covert social media campaign to sway public opinion.

Yet, against all evidence, the theory's shape-shifting nature over the years has compounded its staying power.

"I think both Russia and Ukraine meddled in the 2016 election," Republican Sen. John Kennedy of Louisiana said last month on "Meet the Press."

In February 2017, Putin publicly claimed Ukraine's entire government had supported Clinton and now needed to "improve relations" with the new Trump administration.

By that April, Trump himself promoted the theory, falsely suggesting in an AP interview that CrowdStrike, the cybersecurity firm that traced the hack to Russia, had strong ties to Ukraine.

"I heard it's owned by a very rich Ukrainian, that's what I heard," Trump said. "Why didn't they allow the FBI in to investigate the server?"

In fact, CrowdStrike is a Cali-

fornia company founded by two U.S. citizens — George Kurtz and Dmitri Alperovitch, who was born in Russia and lives in America.

And the FBI didn't need to physically take the DNC servers to confirm CrowdStrike's findings. CrowdStrike gave the FBI digital images that captured everything from emails, browsing history and files of the DNC system, the company says.

But Trump took his suspicions about the servers directly to newly elected Ukraine president Volodymyr Zelenskyy in a now infamous July 25 phone call that spurred the articles of impeachment against Trump.

"I would like you to find out what happened with this whole situation with Ukraine, they say CrowdStrike ... I guess you have one of your wealthy people," Trump asked. "The server, they say Ukraine has it."

CrowdStrike released a blog post refuting Trump's claims. The president's own advisers rebutted the theory to no avail, former White House aide Fiona Hill

told impeachment investigators.

Trump keeps the claim alive. He insisted to Fox News viewers in November that he only withheld aid from Ukraine to investigate corruption there, hinting once again that's where the DNC's servers are hidden.

Parts of the Ukraine theory have been echoed by the president's Republican allies — some of whom concede Russia interfered but posit Ukraine did too.

"Russia's campaign to interfere in our election was real and systematic. It is also true that Ukrainian officials did not want ... then-candidate Trump to win. The two are not mutually exclusive," the office of Republican Sen. Ted Cruz said in a statement. Cruz himself has said there's "considerable evidence" of Ukraine interference.

As his Senate trial nears, Trump has pressed GOP senators to rally behind him — asking personal attorney Rudy Giuliani to brief them on his trip to Europe, where he searched for witnesses and documents.

## NATION

# Vultures overrun, ruin border watch tower

By MARISA IATI  
The Washington Post

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has a problem with vultures — specifically, roughly 300 of them that are defecating and urinating all over a radio tower that the agency needs to communicate.

The excretion is coating the entire 320-foot tower in southern Texas, including the interior part that workers need to touch, according to a request for information that the agency sent to *Watters*. The government is seeking a “Vulture Deterrence Netting System” to be installed in August before the birds’ roosting season.

The migratory birds have been making themselves comfortable on the tower in Kingsville — about 45 miles southwest of Cor-

pous Christi — for more than six years, a CBP spokesperson told Quartz, which first reported on the vultures. CBP did not answer questions from *The Washington Post* on Friday.

“They will often defecate and vomit from their roost on buildings below that house employees and equipment,” said the spokesperson, whom Quartz did not name. “There are anecdotes about birds dropping prey from a height of 300 feet, creating a terrifying and dangerous situation for those concerned.”

Beyond the risk of vomit and prey falling from the sky, vultures have sharp nails and beaks that can cause deep scratches. The birds also “regurgitate a reeking and corrosive vomit” that kills bacteria on their legs but also slowly destroys metal, according to the U.S. Department

of Agriculture.

As acidic excretion piles up on a radio tower, the structure becomes more dangerous for the maintenance workers who have to climb it, reported AGL Media Group, a telecommunications trade publication. The birds also cough up the undigested fur and bones of their prey, and the remnants sometimes pile up on the ground, AGL reported.

Customs and Border Protection plans to clean the contaminated radio tower, remove the rust and repaint the structure before installing the netting that it hopes will deter future vultures from setting up shop. The agency’s radio towers are critical to enabling officers to quickly exchange information related to border security.

Other ways of dispelling the

widely disliked birds are more creative. Hanging an effigy of a vulture or a lifelike replica is often effective because birds avoid congregating near where another bird has been hurt or killed, according to AGL. Effigies should be hung head-down to appear as if they are struggling or dead.

Propane cannons and pyrotechnics can effectively dispel vultures at night, but Customs and Border Protection wrote that the deterrent it uses should involve minimal noise and visual impacts to the nearby rural area.

“In some situations, selective, lethal removal of birds may be needed to resolve damage effectively,” the Agriculture Department says of vulture removal.

Killing the birds, however, is usually not an option because

the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 makes it illegal.

The Customs and Border Protection spokesperson told Quartz that the agency wants to keep the birds away while also protecting them. And for good reason: Vultures help clean up deteriorating carcasses on the ground and quell the spread of disease and bacteria.

“CBP’s Office of Information Technology has been working closely with several agencies including Fish and Wildlife, the USDA, environmental experts and the Texas State Historical Preservation Officer, to determine a good path toward a solution that will deter the vultures from roosting atop our towers while ensuring no harm to the birds,” the spokesperson said.

The vultures did not respond to a request for comment.

## Red meat study under scrutiny for Texas A&M involvement

By LARA KORTE

Austin (Texas) American-Statesman

AUSTIN, Texas — A widely criticized study about the benefits of red meat is under scrutiny again after the journal that published it issued a correction for failing to disclose that one of the authors received funding for other research from Texas A&M University, which many consider a conflict of interest.

The *Annals of Internal Medicine*, an academic medical journal, last fall published a study declaring there is “no need to cut down on red and processed meat for health reasons.” The findings drew criticism from medical researchers and nationally known nutritionists who said the conclusions were misleading and weren’t supported in their own research.

The journal initially defended the study and its authors, including then-Dalhousie University professor Bradley Johnston. But on Dec. 31, the journal revealed Johnston had failed to disclose his ties to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension agency, including a grant worth more than \$76,000 to conduct a separate study into saturated fats, as well as his recruitment to a professor position at the school.

The authors, journal and Texas A&M now are under fire for what some say is a conflict of interest because of the study’s findings and A&M’s relationship with the beef industry.

Patrick Stover, vice chancellor and dean at AgriLife and an author of the study, says there is no conflict of interest posed by the grant to Johnston because it was for an unrelated study and was awarded near the end of the red meat study. In addition, Stover said that Johnston followed all disclosure rules when the paper was submitted, providing additional information that was not called for in the guidelines.



Austin American-Statesman

Cuts of meat at a butcher store in Florida. Texas A&M University’s AgriLife institution has received criticism for its involvement in a study saying red and processed meat do not have significant effects on health.

**‘People are running with an appearance of conflict, but none of those monies have anything to do with the red meat study.’**

Patrick Stover  
an author of the study

“People are running with an appearance of conflict, but none of those monies have anything to do with the red meat study, nor was there a requirement for them to be disclosed,” Stover said. According to *Annals’* editor-in-chief, Dr. Christine Laine, the journal requires authors to complete a disclosure form from the International Committee of Medical Editors, which asks authors to include in their disclosures financial relationships over the past 36 months that are topically relevant to the work but did not directly support it.

Laine said that Johnston failed to disclose the Texas A&M grant because he misunderstood the disclosure policy, which required authors to report grants of related topics. Laine also said the fat study and Johnston’s tenure at A&M was not intended to begin until August 2020.

But according to Stover, the \$76,000 was granted as a kind of

“advance” ahead of Johnston’s appointment to Texas A&M to get started on the fat study. Johnston’s move to A&M was delayed because of personal reasons, Stover said, but had he been able to come to A&M sooner, the money would have been included as part of his salary.

But it’s not just the grant that is raising eyebrows among some nutrition scientists. At the start of the red meat study, Stover was employed at Cornell University. In 2018, Stover moved into his role as dean and vice chancellor at AgriLife. Shortly after,

Johnston was recruited to teach and research at A&M, a fact the medical journal did not know at the time the red meat study was published, Laine said.

In August, about a month before the study published, Johnston was offered a teaching and research position at A&M with an annual salary totaling more than \$188,000, according to an offer letter obtained by *The Austin American-Statesman*.

The International Committee of Medical Journal Editors’ recommendations on disclosure advises that perceptions of conflict

of interest are as important as actual conflicts of interest.

Johnston has faced criticism in the past for possible conflicts with other studies. A 2017 publication in *Annals* found current guidelines on sugar consumption are based on “low-quality evidence.” At the time, Johnston disclosed he was funded by the International Life Sciences Institute, an organization whose members include the Coca-Cola Co., Hershey Co., Kellogg Co. and others.

The conflict, whether perceived or actual, stems from Texas A&M’s relationship with the beef industry. Stover said AgriLife receives funding from a variety of sources for a gamut of agricultural research. Last year, AgriLife received about \$4.5 million for beef research, half of which came from government grants and the other half from commodity groups or the beef industry. That money represents less than 5% of AgriLife’s total research funds, Stover said.

Still, others say the beef industry’s influence is obvious.

“That’s clearly a conflict of interest if the subject matter of the research is the health consequences of consuming red meat,” said Dr. Neal Barnard, a George Washington University associate professor and founding president of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

Barnard and others took issue with the methods used in the study and the conclusions drawn from the analysis. Researchers in the meat study used an analysis system known as Grades of Recommendation Assessment, Development and Evaluation, or GRADE, to analyze several existing studies about red and processed meat. In the GRADE system, observational studies, which examine the effects of peoples’ habits, are weighted less than controlled clinical trials, which ask people to change their habits and studies the effects.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police remove 62 animals from home

**WY** CASPER — Casper police officials removed 62 animals that were subjected to what authorities described as unsanitary and neglectful conditions from a Natrona County home.

Animal protection officers worked for more than three hours to remove 46 dogs, 15 rabbits and a cat, the Casper Star-Tribune reported.

The animals were being evaluated by a veterinarian and recovering in a shelter.

Police officials said they previously tried to help the home owner create a plan to take better care of the animals after they responded to a complaint in December.

## Skulls, jaw bones found in archival storage boxes

**NV** LAS VEGAS — Two human skulls and two human jaw bones were discovered in archival storage boxes by a volunteer, prompting an investigation, Clark County Museum officials said.

The 50-year-old museum grew from a collection of items from the Las Vegas Valley's first female mortician Anna Roberts Parks, The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

This was the first time human remains were found in Parks' collection, museum registrar Cynthia Sanford said.

The bones were taken to the Clark County coroner's office for investigation, officials said.

## FBI is trying to catch a 'bad wig bandit'

**NC** CHARLOTTE — The FBI is asking the public's help in catching a so-called "bad wig bandit" who's been robbing banks in North Carolina.

The FBI said in a statement that the suspect wore a different wig during each heist in the Charlotte area.

One wig was blonde. Another was black. The third was red.

The FBI said he robbed a BB&T in Huntersville on Dec. 13. He then robbed two banks on Jan. 7. The first was a New Horizon Bank in Belmont. The second was a Wells Fargo in Gastonia.

## Junior, state's official Easter Bunny, dies at 5

**VA** VIRGINIA BEACH — A 25-pound rabbit that served as Virginia's official Easter Bunny as well as a service animal for a U.S. Army veteran has died.

The Virginian-Pilot reported the news last week, although the animal died in November after an illness.

Lord Roland Watson Beldon Maxwell VIII was known as Junior. The rabbit was 3½ feet long and belonged to Angela "Max" Maxwell of Virginia Beach.

The 56-year-old's face was grazed by a sniper bullet while serving in Desert Storm. She rarely ventured out in public without Junior.



ISAAC HALE, THE (PROVO, UTAH) DAILY HERALD/AP

## Frozen kingdom

Site manager Billy Tiedemann directs ice artisans while the Ice Castles are created at Homestead Resort in Midway, Utah. The annual attraction opened Friday. The Midway Ice Castles feature ice walls and tall towers that take 10,000 man hours and about 25 tons of ice and snow to create, the Daily Herald newspaper reported.

## Man breaks into Taco Bell, eats, takes nap

**GA** LAWRENCEVILLE — Taco Bell wasn't open on Christmas Day but a burglar in Georgia decided he wanted a festive feast anyway — and to take a nap while he was at it.

Just after midnight Dec. 25, a man approached a Taco Bell and entered through the drive-thru window. Surveillance video showed him using the fryers to

make himself a meal. After eating, he proceeded to take a nap on the restaurant floor. Prior to leaving about three hours later, the suspect stole a laptop and tablet, investigators said.

## Police: Couple baited thieves, beat them

**CA** VISALIA — A central California couple was arrested after investigators said they lured thieves to their home

with the intention of assaulting them, according to a news report.

Corey Curnutt and Savannah Grillot left an unattended bicycle outside their residence and when it was taken they allegedly chased the thieves and beat them with an aluminum bat, KFSN-TV reported. It wasn't immediately known if they have attorneys.

Police began investigating Curnutt and Grillot after clips of the bait bike videos began appearing on YouTube last July, said Visalia Police Lt. Ron Epp.

## THE CENSUS

# \$3.7M

The approximate amount the Highland Green 1968 Ford Mustang GT featured in the film "Bullitt" sold for at a Florida auction house. The \$3.74 million sale at Mecum Kissimmee marked the most expensive Mustang sold, surpassing a 1967 Shelby GT500 Super Snake that sold last year for \$2.2 million, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

## Hacked sign asks drivers to 'Send Nudes'

**KY** PINE KNOT — Drivers traveling along a Kentucky highway didn't have to check their direct messages to receive the infamous sexting request: send nudes.

An electronic road sign that was hacked asked drivers on Highway 92 in Pine Knot to "send nudes," news outlets reported.

Officials with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet said someone had hacked through the password-protected system. The sign belonged to a contractor doing construction work.

## Rules set for island where pelicans nest

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana is setting rules for a barrier island that's being restored to greatly increase the number of pelicans and other seabirds that can nest there.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission made Queen Bess Island a wildlife refuge in November.

It's taking comments through March 2 on the rules, which include no hunting, nighttime activities or vehicles ever and no public access during nesting season, from February through September. During that season, fishing would be forbidden between the island and breakwaters built to protect it.

## Turtle released into sea after flipper amputation

**FL** WILBUR-BY-THE-SEA — A sea turtle whose left flipper was amputated due to an infection was released back into the Atlantic Ocean in Florida.

The green turtle named Endor had spent months rehabilitating and living in the Florida Aquarium in Tampa before being released on Florida's East coast.

The turtle was taken to Tampa on April 1 with six other turtles who had endured cold-stunning, which is similar to hypothermia and causes low blood circulation, pneumonia, decreased heart rate and exhaustion.

Endor grew from 3.24 pounds to 13.67 pounds during his rehabilitation program.

In case Endor washes up on shore or gets injured, aquarium biologists tagged Endor so others can have access to his medical condition and history.

From wire reports



## WORLD

# Australia takes offense in fire fight

By NICK PERRY  
Associated Press

BODALLA, Australia — Crews battling Australia's wildfires said Sunday that they have been able to turn from defense to offense for the first time in weeks thanks to a break in the weather.

Dale McLean, who is helping manage the response to a fire near the town of Bodalla in New South Wales state, was part of a team that was bulldozing down small trees and burning scrub about 20 feet from the fire's projected path to try to stop it from reaching a major highway by starving it of fuel.

"This fire took a major run about seven or eight days ago, and with the weather changing now,

the weather settling down, the fire has settled down," he said. "The fire behavior has changed. So we're able to get in front of the fire now, get to the offensive."

Other workers echoed McLean's comments, saying cooler temperatures and mild winds have finally offered them a chance to make progress. The weather is expected to remain benign for the next week, although any deterioration in conditions after that could see the wildfires flare up again.

The progress made by the crews came after a firefighter was killed by a falling tree. Bill Slade — one of the few professionals among mainly volunteer brigades battling blazes across southeast Australia — died on

Saturday near Omeo in eastern Victoria state. Forest Fire Management Victoria Executive Director Chris Hardman said.

"Although we do have enormous experience in identifying hazardous trees, sometimes these tree failures can't be predicted," Hardman said. "Working on the fire ground in a forest environment is a dynamic, high-risk environment and it carries with it significant risk."

The tragedy brings the death toll to at least 27 in a crisis that has destroyed more than 2,000 homes and scorched an area larger than the U.S. state of Indiana since September. Four of the casualties have been firefighters.

The crisis has brought accusa-

tions that Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conservative government needs to take more action to counter climate change, which experts say has worsened the blazes. Thousands of protesters rallied Friday in Sydney and Melbourne, calling for Morrison to be fired and for Australia to take tougher action on global warming.

The prime minister said Sunday that his government was building resilience to the fire danger posed by climate change.

He said the government was developing a national disaster risk reduction framework within the Department of Home Affairs that will deal with wildfires, cyclones, floods and drought.

## Hong Kong rally seeks international support

HONG KONG — More than a thousand people attended a rally in Hong Kong on Sunday to urge people and governments abroad to support the city's pro-democracy movement and oppose China's ruling Communist Party.

Representatives of allied activist groups from Canada, Europe and Taiwan made remarks and led the attendees in chants of "Fight for freedom! Stand with Hong Kong!"

## Tripoli: Hifter's forces violate truce on 1st day

BENGHAZI, Libya — Libya's UN-supported government has accused its rivals of violating a cease-fire minutes after it was supposed to take effect.

The truce, which was proposed by Russia and Turkey, was supposed to have been the first break in fighting in months, and the first brokered by international players. Hours after both sides declared they'd observe the deal, the Tripoli-based government issued a statement that accused ex-general Khalifa Hifter's forces of violating the cease-fire in the capital just minutes after it began. The government said if it happened again they would "respond violently and harshly."

## Thousands run against Thailand 'dictatorship'

BANGKOK — Thousands of anti-government protesters took part in the "Run Against Dictatorship" in the Thai capital Sunday in the biggest political demonstration in years.

Organizers said more than 13,000 people turned up for the run at a park, demanding that Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha step down.

T-shirts were emblazoned with caricatures of Prayuth, and placards on a stage carried tongue-in-cheek slogans, such as "Every drop of sweat is for the future of Thailand" and "Getting rid of Uncle is harder than getting rid of belly fat." Prayuth's nickname is 'Uncle Tu.'

## Book on famed French author spurs debate

PARIS — He was a middle-aged French author becoming known, even celebrated, for writing about sex with children. She was a fragile 14-year-old, too young to foresee the damage she says was done to her life by his predatory grip on her body and mind.

Now a grown woman, Vanessa Springora is causing a literary, legal and cultural storm in France with her explosive tell-all book that alleges, in cutting detail, an underage and destructive sexual relationship with French writer Gabriel Matzneff, now in his 80s.

The publication this month and quick commercial success of "Consent" is also being hailed by child-protection activists as a possible watershed moment for France.

The book has ignited renewed debates about the country's permissive attitudes toward sex with minors.

From The Associated Press



BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

People watch as the Taal volcano spews ash and smoke during an eruption in Tagaytay, Cavite province south of Manila, Philippines, on Sunday.

# Small volcano erupts in Philippines

By AARON FAVILA  
AND JIM GOMEZ  
Associated Press

TAGAYTAY, Philippines — A small volcano south of the Philippine capital that draws many tourists for its picturesque setting in a lake erupted with a massive plume of ash and steam Sunday, prompting thousands of people to flee and officials to shut Manila's international airport.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said Taal Volcano in Batangas province south of Manila blasted steam, ash and pebbles up to 6 to 9 miles into the sky in a dramatic escalation of its growing restiveness, which began last year.

The volcanology institute raised the danger level around Taal three notches on Sunday to level 4, indicating "a hazardous eruption may happen within hours or days," said Renato Solidum, who

heads the volcanology institute. Level 5, the highest, means a hazardous eruption is underway and could affect a large area.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, but authorities scrambled to evacuate more than 6,000 villagers from an island in the middle of a lake, where the volcano lies, and tens of thousands more from nearby coastal towns, officials said.

"We have asked people in high-risk areas, including the volcano island, to evacuate now ahead of a possible hazardous eruption," Solidum said.

Renelyn Bautista, a 38-year-old housewife who was among thousands of residents who fled from Batangas province's Laurel town, said she hitched a ride to safety from her home with her two children, including a 4-month-old baby, after Taal erupted and the ground shook mildly.

"We hurriedly evacuated when the air turned muddy because of the ashfall and it started to smell like gunpowder," Bautista said by phone.

International and domestic flights were suspended Sunday night at Manila's international airport "due to volcanic ash in the vicinity of the airport" and nearby air routes, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said.

Heavy to light ashfall was reported in towns and cities several miles from the volcano, and officials advised residents to stay indoors and don masks and goggles for safety. Motorists were hampered by poor visibility, which was worsened by rainy weather.

Authorities recorded a swarm of earthquakes, some of them felt with rumbling sounds, and a slight inflation of portions of the 1,020-foot volcano ahead of Sunday's steam-driven explosion, officials said.

## China warns Taiwan's leader after US meeting

By KEN MORITSUGU  
AND ELAINE KURTENBACH  
Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Fresh from a landslide reelection victory, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen met Sunday with the de facto U.S. ambassador to Taipei, as China warned that countries should stick with recognizing communist-ruled Beijing as the rightful government of "one China," including Taiwan.

William Brent Christensen, a U.S. diplomat who is director of the American Institute in Taiwan, congratulated Tsai on her victory in Saturday's election, and she thanked him for his support.

China considers self-governed Taiwan a part of its territory and opposes any official contact with the U.S. as an interference in its domestic affairs. The U.S. does not have formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan but is legally bound to ensure that the island can defend itself against threats.

Tsai has sought closer relations with the U.S. while pushing back against pressure from China, and the Trump administration has reciprocated.

Since separating from China during civil war in 1949, Taiwan has developed its own identity but never declared formal independence. Beijing still claims sovereignty over the island of 23 million people and threatens to use force to seize control if necessary.

In her victory speech Saturday night after her rival, Han Kuo-yu of the Nationalist Party, conceded defeat, Tsai urged China to resume talks with Taiwan without preconditions while warning against threatening use of force.

"Today I want to once again remind the Beijing authorities that peace, parity, democracy and dialogue are the keys to stability," Tsai said.

## WORLD

## Oman monarch remembered as peacekeeper

By JON GAMBRELL  
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said, the Mideast's longest-ruling monarch who seized power in a 1970 palace coup and pulled his Arabian sultanate into modernity while carefully balancing diplomatic ties between adversaries Iran and the U.S., has died. He was 79.

The British-educated, reclusive sultan reformed a nation that was home to only three schools and harsh laws banning electricity, radios, eyeglasses and even umbrellas when he took the throne.

Under his reign, Oman became known as a welcoming tourist



Sultan Haitham

destination and a key Mideast interlocutor, helping the U.S. free captives in Iran and Yemen and even hosting visits by Israeli officials while pushing back on their occupation of land Palestinians want for a future state.

"We do not have any conflicts and we do not put fuel on the fire when our opinion does not agree with someone," Sultan Qaboos told a Kuwaiti newspaper in a rare interview in 2008.

Oman's state-run news agency

announced his death early Saturday, but offered no cause. The royal court declared three days of mourning. Following Islamic tradition, the sultan was buried before nightfall.

The sultan's death had raised the risk of unrest in this country on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula. The unmarried Sultan Qaboos had no children and did not publicly name an heir, a tradition among the ruling Al Said dynasty whose history is replete with bloody takeovers. But within hours, Oman state television announced Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, who had served as the sultanate's culture minister, as the new sultan.

The sultan had been believed

to be ill for some time, though authorities never disclosed what malady he faced.

The sultan's willingness to stand apart was key to Oman's influence in the region. While home to some 4.6 million people and smaller oil reserves than its neighbors, Oman under Sultan Qaboos routinely influenced the region in ways others couldn't.

The sultan's greatest diplomatic achievement came as Oman hosted secret talks between Iranian and U.S. diplomats that led to the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers. The agreement, which limited Iran's atomic program in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions, has come unraveled since Presi-

dent Donald Trump withdrew from it in May 2018.

Trump issued a statement saying that the sultan "brought peace and prosperity to his country and was a friend to all. His unprecedented efforts to engage in dialogue and achieve peace in the region showed us the importance of listening to all viewpoints."

Former President Jimmy Carter also expressed sadness, saying: "His voice for peace and tolerance in the Middle East will be missed. He was a wise counsel and ally to me in the White House."

He is known to have had three major passions — reading, music and yachting. Sultan Qaboos was briefly married to a first cousin. They divorced in 1979.

## Queen determined to resolve conflict within royal family

Associated Press

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II ended 2019 with a public plea for global harmony after a rocky year. She's starting 2020 trying to heal disharmony within her own family after Prince Harry

and his wife, Meghan, decided to "step back" as senior royals without consulting the monarch.

After initial talks between courtiers to the senior royals over the couple's unorthodox declaration of independence, Bucking-

ham Palace said Saturday that the queen would meet Monday at her Sandringham estate in eastern England with Charles, William and Harry to agree on "next steps."

Harry's next scheduled public

appearance is a rugby event at Buckingham Palace on Thursday. Meghan, meanwhile, has flown to Canada, where the couple and their 8-month-old son, Archie, spent a six-week Christmas break. They announced last

week they plan to "balance" their time between the U.K. and North America, with Canada their likely base.

Meghan is American but lived in Toronto for several years while filming the TV show "Suits."

# Stripes

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

944

## VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

### For Further Information Please Contact

Phone: +49 (0)6134-2592730  
Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)  
E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de  
WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de

UNITED KINGDOM  
+44-(0)1638-515714  
enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk  
www.carshipuk.co.uk

U.S.A.  
+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701  
+1-800-264-8167 (US only)  
info@tgalus.com  
www.tgalus.com

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

## Trans Global

LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Transportation

944

Transportation

944

## Vehicle Transport

We can help



Contact: Mr. Heiko Wachsmann  
hwachsmann@fwn.de

+49 (0) 421 48 94-225 [www.interglobalshipping.de](http://www.interglobalshipping.de)

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri

0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: [info@worldwide-ship.de](mailto:info@worldwide-ship.de)

Visit our Website: [www.worldwide-ship.de](http://www.worldwide-ship.de)

## Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concerts, events, TV,  
movies, music, video games,  
celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES.

## Are you in the picture?



Reading  
Stars and Stripes  
gives you a better  
handle on issues  
that affect you most.

*No one covers the  
bases the way we do.*

STARS AND STRIPES.

## FACES

## COMMENTARY

# 4 reasons the Oscars are likely to snub 'Avengers: Endgame'



Marvel Studios

Robert Downey Jr. is pictured in a scene from "Avengers: Endgame." The Marvel Cinematic Universe film is a long shot to receive best-picture recognition when Academy Award nominations are announced Monday. It's not looking good for Downey, either, to grab an acting nod for his final turn as Tony Stark/Iron Man.

By MICHAEL CAVNA  
The Washington Post

On Monday, if the awards season holds to form, a superhero-universe movie will be nominated for the best picture Oscar for the second straight year. And if the awards season truly holds to form, that movie won't be "Avengers: Endgame."

While Martin Scorsese famously dismissed Marvel movies as not "cinema," "Endgame" has a lot going for it. Not only is it the narrative culmination of a decade-plus of Marvel Cinematic Universe movies that dominated the multiplex; it also was embraced by more viewers (\$2.8 billion box office worldwide) than any movie last year and more reviewers (94 percent "fresh" on Rotten Tomatoes; 78 median score on Metacritic.com) than such potential Oscar rivals as "Joker" (69 on Rotten Tomatoes; 59 on Metacritic) and "Jojo Rabbit" (79 on Rotten Tomatoes; 57 on Metacritic).

So why does "Endgame" feel like such a long shot? Here are four possible reasons.

**1. Odds are against the Academy picking two superhero movies:** Last year, Marvel's "Black Panther" became the first superhero film to receive a best picture nomination, serving as a reminder that such prior acclaimed movies as 1978's "Superman" and every entry in Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight trilogy were snubbed. So just one year later, it's a tall order to expect Oscars voters to pick more than one comic-book film in the same year.

Based on such bellwether honors as the

Producers Guild Awards and SAG Awards, the comic-book movie that will probably elbow past the Russo Brothers' "Endgame" is Todd Phillips' "Joker." The irony here is that for all Marvel's success, a DC Comics film could receive more Oscars love in 2020.

**2. One billion-dollar movie is "enough":** The Oscars telecast viewership has declined precipitously enough in recent years — to a record low 26.5 million in 2018 — that the Academy considered introduc-

ing an outstanding achievement in popular film category. (Thankfully, blowback prompted leadership to reconsider. The Oscars did get a ratings uptick in 2019.)

That's where "Joker" comes in.

Although "Joker" did nowhere near the record-breaking business that "Endgame" did, the Batman archenemy's story — starring Joaquin Phoenix in a Golden Globe-winning performance — grossed \$1.07 billion worldwide. As far as the Oscars are concerned, just one billion-dollar movie in the big category is likely enough to avoid charges of pop-taste irrelevance.

Also worth noting: Although "Joker" was among the 10 highest-grossing movies of the year worldwide, none of the other PGA best-picture nominees — again, a fair reflection of likely Oscar nominees — cracked the top 30 in global box office.

**3. "Endgame" is not picking up actor nominations:** Despite speculation last spring that Robert Downey Jr.'s likely final performance as Iron Man might receive Oscars attention, those chances have faded as Phoenix, Adam Driver, Leonardo DiCaprio, Eddie Murphy, Taron Egerton and Adam Sandler have moved to the fore.

"Endgame" might boast nearly 20 past Oscar winners and nominees in its massive cast, but none is widely predicted to receive acting nominations for Marvel work this year.

So again, if in the Academy's minds it comes down to two comic-book movies to choose from, the one featuring Phoenix's bravura performance gains an edge.

**4. 2019 is a deep field for contenders:** Since the rule change about a decade ago to allow a maximum of 10 best picture nominees, the Academy nominates eight or nine movies most years — and 2019 has at least a dozen strong candidates to fill out the field before even getting to "Endgame."

Plus, there is a healthy mix of works among the leading contenders — from a war epic like "1917" to a small-scale drama like "Marriage Story" to "real life" biography like "The Irishman." If the final field only runs eight deep, "Endgame" will almost assuredly be shut out.

But that said: Do expect "Endgame" — like its fellow Disney films "The Lion King" and "Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker" — to clean up in the technical nominations.

## Network boss calls growth in number of TV series 'bananas'

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — The mass of television series is certifiably "bananas," according to the TV executive who has kept a close eye on its growth.

An estimated tally of scripted programs available to viewers exceeded 500 for the first time, FX Networks head John Landgraf said. He is credited with coining the phrase "peak TV" and has regularly warned that more is not better.

There were 532 scripted drama and comedy series in 2019 on broadcast, cable

and streaming platforms, a 7% increase over 2018, Landgraf told a TV critics meeting Thursday. When FX started its tracking in 2009 there were about 200 shows, with streaming services responsible for the lion's share of the subsequent growth.

"There's too much story. There's too much narrative," Landgraf said in 2018. That leads to the "impossibility of surprising the audience, of providing something that seems truly novel, truly new."

With streaming wars afoot, "we expect that total likely will increase this year. That's just bananas, right?" Landgraf said

Thursday, calling it "a mad race to keep such a massive conveyor belt of content going."

On March 2, the FX on Hulu streaming hub will launch, offering most current and past seasons of FX's original series and exclusive fare.

### Other news

■ Donald Glover's "Atlanta" is returning with new episodes, but not for another year, Landgraf said Thursday that star and creator Glover is making 18 new episodes.

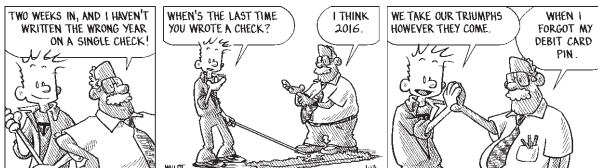
Ten of them will air in January 2021, with the rest to follow later that year, in the fall.

■ Buck Henry, "The Graduate" co-writer who as screenwriter, character actor, "Saturday Night Live" host and cherished talk-show and party guest became a cultural superstar of the 1960s and '70s, died Jan. 8 in Los Angeles. He was 89.

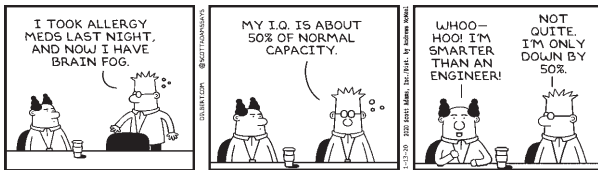
■ Edd Byrnes, who played Kookie on the hit TV show "77 Sunset Strip," scored a gold record with a song about his character's hair-combing obsession and appeared in the 1978 movie "Grease," died Jan. 8 at 87.



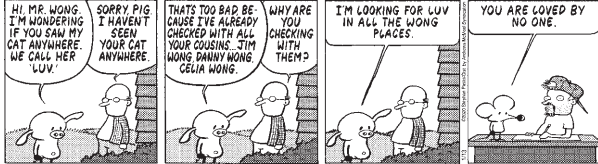
Frazz



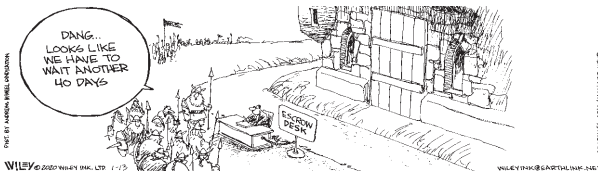
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



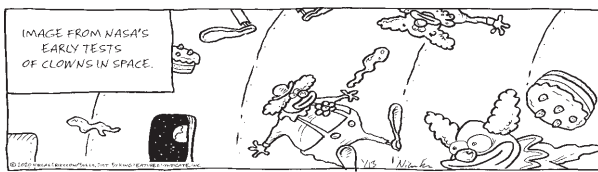
Non Sequitur



Candorville



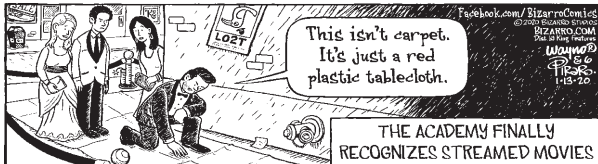
Carpe Diem



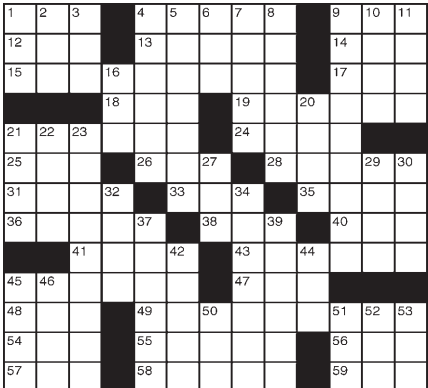
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## ACROSS

- Cutting tool
- Senate broadcaster
- Connections
- Genetic letters
- Amtrak express
- Scot's refusal
- Pioneered
- Zero
- Not 'neath
- Swindle
- Critter
- Body powder
- 100 yrs.
- Danson of "Cheers"
- Fry lightly
- Comic Carvey
- Mahal predecessor
- Pinot —
- Espresso foam
- Thumbs-up
- Dos predecessor
- Golfer McIlroy
- Pokes fun at
- Punctual
- NBC show since 1975
- Singer Rawls
- Hostel manager
- Sailor
- Moral principle
- "— you serious?"

## DOWN

- Chemical suffix
- Zesty dip
- Cowboy's nickname
- Outlet letters
- Close
- Flotation device
- Calendar box
- Fork part
- Cupid's alias
- Mine, in Marseille
- Water sport vehicles
- Ant hordes
- New York tribe
- Gossip
- Pub order
- "Three Sisters" sister
- Lunch hour
- Stanley Cup org.
- Bit of butter
- Before
- Actor Harrison

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## 1-13

## CRYPTOQUIP

PTCJU RG PCTBDE-PCVDU CBD  
YWCY KCV JCQDU OJ WRJRT  
RG C KRTBU-TDJRKJDU

CJOQCYRT: QCBY UOVIDE.  
Saturday's Cryptquip: QUAIN ACTIVITY INVOLVING ENGLISH COUNTRY GENTLEMEN MOVING TO MUSIC IN TANDEM; SQUIRE DANCING.  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: P equals B

## STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
Lt. Col. Sean Kilmer, Europe commander  
Lt. Col. Richard McClinton, Pacific commander  
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations  
Joshua M. Lashbrook, Pacific Chief of Staff

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stripes.com  
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stripes.com  
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
croley.tina@stripes.com  
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moorese@stripes.com  
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

## Europe/Mideast

Erin Slavik, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavik.erin@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

## Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.380

## Washington

Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com  
+1(202)886-0033  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stripes.com

## CIRCULATION

## Mideast

Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager  
robert.reisman.nrc@gmail.com  
xscirculation@stripes.com  
DSN (314)583-9111

## Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager  
lewis.karen@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

## Pacific

Mari Mori, Customer Help@stripes.com  
+81-3 6385.371, DSN (315)227.7333

## CONTACT US

Washington  
tel: (+1)202.886.0003  
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

## Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

## Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

## OMBDSMAN

## Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471900) is published weekly, except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 for 50 issues Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96301-0002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO 96301-0002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2020

stripes.com

## OPINION

## Weinstein's accusers standing strong

By ROBIN ABERNATHY

Los Angeles Times

Harvey Weinstein hobbled into a New York court last Monday, leaning on a walker cushioned by two bright green tennis balls. Bent and shuffling, he no longer appeared to be the entitled movie mogul who he believed he could help himself to any woman he desired.

Instead, the man whose sexual bullying helped fuel the rage behind the #MeToo movement now appears weak, pale and pathetic. It all feels very calculated.

Just last month, he told the New York Post that he's the victim here.

"I feel like the forgotten man," he told the Post. "I made more movies directed by women and about women than any filmmaker, and I'm talking about 30 years ago. ... I did it first! I pioneered it! It all got exacerbated because of what happened."

Note the semantic sleight of hand: "because of what happened," not "because of what I did."

Though more than 80 women have accused the once-fearsome producer of sexual misconduct over decades, he is facing charges in this trial for the harm he is alleged to have inflicted on only two: a woman who says he raped her in a Manhattan hotel in 2013 and another who says he forced oral sex on her at his home in 2006.

In an excellent turn of events, he may also face a second criminal trial. Also last Monday, Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey announced she would file four counts of rape and sexual battery against Weinstein involving alleged sexual attacks on two women in hotels in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills in 2013, just before

that year's Oscars.

Whether he will be convicted on any of these counts is far from certain, but just seeing him in court is a balm.

"It's good to see Lady Justice staring him down," said one of his earliest accusers, Rose McGowan. "It feels like a huge win already."

Weinstein's wretched behavior left a trail of destruction behind him: the ruined or injured careers of women who fought him off at their own peril, the stars who got work only at a steep cost to their well-being, the enablers and defenders who tossed their scruples out the window to protect him by helping silence accusers with financial settlements, which came with nondisclosure agreements that enabled him to continue behaving as he always had.

I can't look at Weinstein without thinking about Bill Cosby, who finally got what was coming, and now sits, remorseless, in a Pennsylvania jail. Or men like Matt Lauer, Les Moonves, Charlie Rose and dozens of others who lost their jobs but never really took responsibility for their actions.

But have things changed? Certainly, that's the case in the upper professional echelons. One year after the Weinstein scandal broke, The New York Times reported that of the 201 powerful men who lost their jobs as a result of sexual misconduct allegations, nearly half were replaced by women.

At least a dozen states have passed new legislation addressing workplace sexual harassment.

Last Monday morning I watched a live feed of Weinstein's courthouse entrance, then a nearby press conference by seven of his accusers, including McGowan, Rosanna Arquette and TV journalist Lauren

Sivan. They call themselves the Silence Breakers. "Living in silence," McGowan said, "is a death sentence for your soul." Weinstein entered the court flanked by attorneys and beefy bodyguards.

"Did you see the thugs who were protecting him?" asked Arquette. "Like a Scorsese movie!"

Sivan genially introduced herself as "the potted plant girl."

In 2007 at a Manhattan business dinner, she has alleged, Weinstein lured her into the restaurant section of a club he had invested in, trapped her, then masturbated into a potted plant when she refused him.

"I'm OK being known as 'the potted plant girl' as long as he's never known as the predator," that he is," she said.

Sivan has the distinction of having been targeted by both Weinstein and Roger Ailes, the late Fox News Network chairman who both personally fostered and allowed a culture of harassment to flourish at the network until he was exposed by former Fox anchor Gretchen Carlson, who sued him personally. Carlson won \$20 million and an apology.

Jury selection in the Weinstein case began Tuesday.

As for his fear of being forgotten, Sivan said, he shouldn't worry.

"We will definitely remember him," she said. "He put MeToo on the map, a movement that has taken over the country and the world. He has changed sexual harassment policies in workplaces around the nation, even in our own government. He has made it more effective and safe for people to report sexual harassment and abuse."

Heck of a legacy, Harvey.

Robin Abernathy is a Los Angeles Times columnist.

## Blue wall states pro-Trump, also abandoned by Dems

By GARY ABERNATHY

Special to The Washington Post

Florida gets all the notoriety for tipping the 2020 election to George W. Bush, but West Virginia's Republican insistence it was their state's five Electoral College votes that handed the GOP nominee his 271-266 margin.

But even several years after Bush's upset victory in West Virginia, "Republican" was still something of a dirty word in the Mountain State. The state Republican Party, where he worked for seven years beginning in 2001, was dwarfed in finances and influence by the Democrats, who for decades had dominated West Virginia, a dependably blue state led by such icons as Sens. Robert Byrd and Jay Rockefeller.

Even traditional Republican allies — including the state's Chamber of Commerce and West Virginians for Life, the state's pro-life organization — were mostly in the Democrats' corner, since the Democratic Party was conservative enough to be in theirs, too, and held the power.

Times have changed. I recently visited West Virginia's capital, Charleston, where Republicans now hold almost all state and federal offices, what still surprised me was the complete reversal in tone and allegiance voiced by the rank-and-file voters I encountered. From impeachment to the confrontation with Iran, President Donald Trump was the dominant topic of conversation, and his defense against those spiteful Democrats, I heard time and again.

It was amazing but not shocking. In 2020, against anti-coal, pro-choice Democrat Al Gore, Bush won West Virginia with about 52% of the vote. He won it again in 2004 with 56%. John McCain took the state with about 56% of the vote in 2008,

while Mitt Romney walked away with 62% in 2012. So, why Trump's nearly 69% in 2016 was impressive, it was really part of a trend that coincided with the Democrats' increasingly liberal nominees.

When Democrats discuss how they lost that "blue wall" states to Trump in 2016, they typically blame lower turnout among minority voters, compared to Barack Obama's victories. A recent Politico analysis pondering the attributes of a winning Democratic nominee in 2020 asked, "Does that person have a clear message; do they inspire hope and excitement across the party divide?"

But it could well be that the party's message is all too clear and its myopic focus on diversity the main obstacle. The typical Democratic message discounts generational occupations (coal mining, manufacturing) and demonizes cultural values such as gun rights, pro-life principles and West Virginia's evangelical Christian beliefs. As a result, many voters end up echoing Ronald Reagan, who declared, "I didn't leave the Democratic Party. The party left me."

The blue wall states of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin that Trump won are not the only ones that have swung Republican, but so is Ohio, which was until recently a swing state but is probably now safe for Trump. How many more states can Democrats afford to abandon?

The recent dust-up over the Hallmark Channel's refusal to run an advertisement that appeared to glorify the sexual abuse offered a perfect example of the left's divorce proceedings from middle America. According to some liberal critics, Hallmark is not just guilty of harboring an unenlightened attitude. It is also in the unscrupulous business of making movies that appeal to the people living in small towns and rural areas.

Writing in Salon last month, Amanda Marcotte undertook a leap of Grand Canyon proportions, claiming, "Hallmark movies, with their emphasis on returning home and the pleasures of the small, domestic life, also send a not-at-all subtle signal of disdain for cosmopolitanism and curiosity about the larger world, which is exactly the sort of attitude that helps breed the kind of defensive white nationalism that we see growing in strength in the Donald Trump era."

I had to smile when the subject of Hallmark movies came up during my West Virginia visit, not in relation to the recent brouhaha, but in regard to how some women said they had been spending their holidays. Safe to say, Hallmark movies are as popular in blue wall states as Trump is.

Diversity is an admirable objective, and tolerance is important for us to peacefully coexist. Progressives must tolerate progressive cultural trends with which they disagree. Likewise, progressives must tolerate the conservative values held by millions of Americans. But tolerance is different than advocacy, which is what Democrats seem to demand these days, declaring that conservatives must tolerate progressivism, or they will be the next scapegoat that doesn't aggressively promote their definition of cultural diversity.

Diversity, by definition, includes not just people of color or progressive ideals but also white Americans and conservative principles. Each side must strive to respect and understand the other's cultural landscape that out, their future will include more West Virginia-style breakups, and they'll look back, wistfully, remembering when states like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin were theirs.

Gary Abernathy, a contributing columnist for The Washington Post, is a freelance writer based in Hillsboro, Ohio.





NFL PLAYOFFS

# On Henry! Titans upset Ravens

Derrick Henry runs for 195 yards, throws touchdown pass as Tennessee advances

By BARRY WILNER  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — With his bright red shoes and relentless running, Derrick Henry grabbed the spotlight and wouldn't let go. When he was done leading Tennessee into the AFC championship game Saturday night, he did a lengthy victory lap around the Baltimore Ravens' home, slapping hands and taking selfies with Titans fans.

It has been quite a two-week ride.

"It's not just me," Henry said after rushing for 195 yards and throwing a 3-yard touchdown pass in a 28-12 upset of the NFL's top team Saturday night. "It's a team effort. We're all playing collectively as an offense, as a whole. We're just locked in. We believe in each other. We communicate. It's working out there."

The Titans fear no one, and why should they with Henry rushing — and even throwing — the ball, and a big-play defense making clutch stops and turnovers?

One week after dominating defending Super Bowl champion New England, the Titans (11-7) eliminated Baltimore (14-3). The Ravens had won their last 12 games, with quarterback Lamar Jackson setting records and looking unstoppable.

On Saturday night, it was Henry who was unstoppable, despite Baltimore stacking eight men up front on almost two-thirds of his runs. At times, Henry used power to create space, at others the holes the line provided were huge.

"Watch us work," said Henry,



Julio Cortez/AP

**Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry (22) runs past Baltimore Ravens strong safety Chuck Clark during the Titans' 28-12 win in Saturday's NFL divisional playoff game.**

the NFL's leading rusher this season. "We don't do too much talking. We just go work and believe in each other. That's our mentality. We're going to come in here and work ... Focus on finishing."

Tennessee's defense had two interceptions of All-Pro QB Jackson, who also lost a fumble, and the Titans twice stopped Baltimore on fourth-and-1.

Henry's jump-pass to Corey Davis displayed yet another of

his skills. He has completed three throws in four attempts in his career.

"I put it perfect, man," he said with a smile. "I haven't done that pass since high school. I feel I like I still got it."

But it's the way he plows over and through opponents that makes Henry — and the Titans — dangerous. Next week, they will go after their second Super Bowl trip and first since the 1999

season, either at Kansas City or Houston. The last sixth seed to get to the big game was Green Bay in the 2010 season; the Packers were it all.

Tennessee scored all of its points off takeaways or fourth-down stops.

Ryan Tannehill's throws to Jonnu Smith and Kalif Raymond, who missed the last two games in concussion protocol, gave Tennessee a 14-point edge.

## 49ers' defense, run game dominate Vikings

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Richard Sherman anticipated the route for an interception and then watched the San Francisco 49ers run eight straight times for the touchdown that put them in control of their first playoff game in six years.

The dominant defense and powerful running game that carried the Niners to an 8-0 start this season delivered a 27-10 victory over the Minnesota Vikings in the divisional round Saturday.

"People keep disrespecting us. At the end of the day, all you can do is go out and execute," Sherman said. "It felt good. That's what we look like when we're totally healthy."

The return of injured defensive starters Dee Ford, Kwon Alexander and Jaquiski Tarta had the Niners (14-3) playing as they did in the first half of the season as they set a franchise playoff record by allowing only 147 yards. Jimmy Garoppolo threw a TD



Tony Avelar/AP

**San Francisco 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman (25) intercepts a pass in front of Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Adam Thielen (19) during the 49ers' 27-10 playoff win Saturday.**

pass on his opening drive as a playoff starter and then mostly watched his defense and running game take over from there. The top-seeded 49ers turned a pair of second-half turnovers by Minnesota (11-7) into 10 points.

"They're pretty good right?" tight end George Kittle said of his defense. "It's such a blast just to watch them, how they work together ..."

"If our defense keeps playing like that, all we have to do is not

turn the ball over to win games," Sherman set up Tevin Coleman's second short touchdown run of the game when he beat Adam Thielen to the spot to intercept Kirk Cousins for his third career playoff interception.

Coleman had five of the eight carries on the 44-yard drive as part of a 105-yard rushing performance.

"Those guys did very well," Coleman said of his offensive line. "They moved the guys back so I had clear holes to run through. So, yeah, they did a real good job."

Marcus Sherels' fumbled punt later in the third quarter put a field goal that made it 27-10 early in the fourth quarter.

San Francisco didn't allow Minnesota to gain a first down for more than 27 minutes of game action starting late in the second quarter.

The Niners will host the NFC championship game next week against the winner of Sunday's game between Seattle and Green Bay.

## Scoreboard

### Playoff glance

<b>Wild-card Playoffs</b>	
Saturday, Jan. 4	
Houston 22, Buffalo 18, OT	
Tennessee 20, New England 13	
Sunday, Jan. 5	
Minnesota 26, New Orleans 20, OT	
Seattle 17, Philadelphia 9	
<b>Divisional Playoffs</b>	
Saturday, Jan. 11	
San Francisco 27, Minnesota 10	
Tennessee 28, Baltimore 12	
Sunday, Jan. 12	
Houston at Kansas City	
Seattle at Green Bay	
<b>Conference Championships</b>	
Sunday, Jan. 19	
Tennessee at Houston-Kansas City winner	
Seattle-Green Bay winner at San Francisco	
<b>Pro Bowl</b>	
Sunday, Jan. 26	
At Orlando, Fla.	
AFC vs. NFC	
<b>Super Bowl</b>	
Sunday, Feb. 2	
At Miami Gardens, Fla.	
NFC champion vs. AFC champion	

### Calendar

Feb. 24-March 2 — NFL scouting combine, Indianapolis.  
Feb. 25 — First day for clubs to designate franchise or transition players.  
March 10 — Deadline for clubs to designate franchise or transition players before 4 p.m. EDT

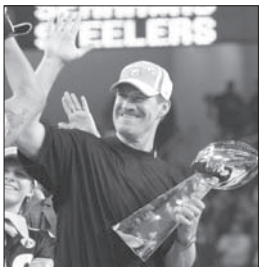
### Titans 28, Ravens 12

Tennessee	7	7	14	0-28
Baltimore	0	0	0	6-12
<b>First Quarter</b>				
Ten-Jo-Smith 12 pass from Tannehill (Joseph kick), 3:36.				
<b>Second Quarter</b>				
Ten-Raymond 49 pass from Tannehill (Joseph kick), 14:45.				
Bal-FG Tucker 49, 5:52.				
Bal-FG Tucker 23, 20.				
<b>Third Quarter</b>				
Ten-C.Davis 3 pass from Henry (Joseph kick), 6:54.				
Ten-Tannehill 1 run (Joseph kick), 4:16.				
<b>Fourth Quarter</b>				
Bal-H.Hurst 15 pass from LJackson (pass failed), 11:04.				
<b>Final Stats</b>				
First downs	Ten	Bal		
Total Net Yards	300	530		
Rushes-yards	37-217	29-185		
Passing-yards	83	349		
Punt Returns	0-0	0-0		
Kickoff Returns	27-27	3-71		
Interceptions Ret.	2-34	0-0		
Comp-Att-Int	8-15-0	31-29-2		
Sacked-Yards Lost	0-0	1-4		
Punts	6-52.5	10-44.0		
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1		
Penalties-Yards	5-20	7-56		
Time of Possession	34:54	32:06		
<b>INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS</b>				
<b>RUSHING</b> —Tennessee, Henry 30-195, Tannehill 6-13, A.Brown 1-9, Baltimore, Jackson 20-143, Ingram 6-22, Edwards 3-20.				
<b>PASSING</b> —Tennessee, Tannehill 7-14-0, Henry 1-10-0-3, Baltimore, Jackson 31-29-2-367.				
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Tennessee, J.Smith 2-12, Henry 2-7, Raymond 1-45, Pruitt 1-15, A.Brown 1-9, C.Davis 1-3, Baltimore, M.Brown 1-236, H.Hurst 6-56, H.Hurst 4-53, Andrews 4-39, Hill 4-26, Boykin 3-26, Roberts 2-30, Ingram 1-9.				
<b>MISSED FIELD GOALS</b> —None.				

### 49ers 27, Vikings 10

San Francisco	7	7	10	0-10
Minnesota	0	0	0	3-27
<b>First Quarter</b>				
SF-Bourne 3 pass from Garoppolo (Gould kick), 9:30.				
Min-Diggs 41 pass from Cousins (Baley kick), 5:23.				
<b>Second Quarter</b>				
SF-Coleman 1 run (Gould kick), 7:10.				
Min-FG Bailey 39, 3:31.				
<b>Third Quarter</b>				
SF-FG Gould 35, 10:42.				
SF-Coleman 2 run (Gould kick), 4:54.				
<b>Fourth Quarter</b>				
SF-FG Gould 21, 14:13.				
A-71:09.				
<b>Final Stats</b>				
First downs	Min	SF		
Total Net Yards	147	308		
Rushes-yards	21-127	47-185		
Passing	126	122		
Punt Returns	2-0	3-23		
Kickoff Returns	5-148	1-22		
Interceptions Ret.	4-4	1-13		
Comp-Att-Int	21-29-1	11-19-1		
Sacked-Yards Lost	6-46	2-9		
Punts	6-48.3	4-46.5		
Fumbles-Lost	1-15	3-38		
Penalties-Yards	7-33	38-27		
<b>INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS</b>				
<b>RUSHING</b> —Tennessee, Coleman 22-105, Mostert 12-56, Breida 8-17, Samuel 1-6, Garoppolo 4-30.				
<b>PASSING</b> —Minnesota, Cousins 21-29-12, San Francisco, Garoppolo 11-19-1-131.				
<b>RECEIVING</b> —Minnesota, Cook 6-8, Thielen 5-50, J.Smith 3-39, Diggs 2-57, Rudolph 2-4, Abdullah 1-7, Conklin 1-5, Strawberry 1-2, San Francisco, Samuel 3-42, Bourne 3-40, Kittle 3-16, Sanders 2-33.				
<b>MISSED FIELD GOALS</b> —None.				

## NFL/NBA



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

**Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher celebrates after his team defeated the Seattle Seahawks 21-10 in Super Bowl XL in Detroit on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2006.**

## Former Steelers coach Cowher elected to Hall

Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — The Chin is in. Former Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in a surprise announcement Saturday night before the Tennessee Titans-Baltimore Ravens AFC divisional round playoff game.

Hall President and CEO David Baker delivered the news live in studio to Cowher, an analyst for CBS, during the network's "The NFL Today" pregame show broadcast.

"This isn't right that this is happening right now, but ... a grinning Cowher told Baker, who then officially welcomed the former coach into this year's Hall of Fame class to be inducted this summer.

Cowher, now 62, was the coach of the Steelers for 15 seasons from 1992 to 2006, and led them to 10 playoff appearances, including two Super Bowls and winning one — beating Seattle in 2006. His Pittsburgh teams won nine division titles.

Cowher had an overall career record of 161-99-1 with a .619 winning percentage. A special panel met at the Hall in Canton, Ohio, on Wednesday to elect the centennial slate for this year's class of inductees.

The centennial slate includes 10 "seasons" (players who last played more than 25 seasons ago), three "contributors" (an individual other than a player or coach) and two "coaches" (who last coached more than five seasons ago) and were voted on from a list of 38 finalists. The remainder of the 15-person centennial slate will be revealed live on "Good Morning Football" on Wednesday.

## Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	26	11	.703	—
Toronto	25	13	.658	1½
Philadelphia	25	15	.625	2½
Brooklyn	17	20	.459	9
New York	10	29	.256	17
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	27	11	.711	—
Orlando	18	21	.462	9½
Charlotte	15	26	.366	13½
Washington	13	25	.342	14
Atlanta	9	31	.205	19½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	35	6	.854	—
Indiana	24	15	.615	10
Chicago	14	26	.350	20½
Detroit	14	26	.350	20½
Cleveland	12	27	.308	22
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	26	12	.684	—
Dallas	24	15	.615	2½
Memphis	17	22	.436	9½
San Antonio	16	21	.432	9½
New Orleans	14	26	.350	13
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	26	12	.684	—
Oklahoma City	22	17	.564	4½
Portland	16	24	.400	11
Minnesota	15	23	.395	11
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	27	7	.821	—
L.A. Clippers	27	12	.692	5
Phoenix	15	23	.395	16½
Sacramento	15	24	.385	17
Golden State	9	31	.225	23½

Saturday's games				
Houston 139, Minnesota 109				
Chicago 108, Detroit 99				
Boston 140, New Orleans 105				
L.A. Lakers 125, Oklahoma City 110				
Dallas 109, Philadelphia 91				
Cleveland 111, Denver 103				
Milwaukee 122, Portland 101				
Sunday's games				
Miami at New York				
Utah at Washington				
Atlanta at Brooklyn				
Golden State at Memphis				
San Antonio at Toronto				
Charlotte at Phoenix				
L.A. Clippers at Denver				
Monday's games				
New Orleans at Detroit				
Philadelphia at Indiana				
Chicago at Boston				
Oklahoma City at Minnesota				
Charlotte at Portland				
Orlando at Sacramento				
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers				
Tuesday's games				
Phoenix at Atlanta				
Utah at Brooklyn				
Houston at Memphis				
New York at Milwaukee				
Cleveland at L.A. Clippers				
Sacramento at Golden State				
Wednesday's games				
Brooklyn at Philadelphia				
Detroit at Atlanta				
San Antonio at Miami				
Indiana at Minnesota				
Toronto at Oklahoma City				
Washington at Chicago				
Charlotte at Denver				
Portland at Houston				
Orlando at Sacramento				
Orlando at L.A. Lakers				

### Calendar

**Feb. 6** — Trade deadline (3 p.m. EST)  
**Feb. 14-16** — NBA All-Star weekend, Chicago.  
**April 15** — Regular season ends.  
**April 18** — Playoffs begin.  
**May 19** — Draft lottery, Chicago.  
**May 22-24** — Draft combine, Chicago.  
**June 4** — NBA Finals begin.  
**June 25** — NBA Draft.

## NBA roundup

# Celtics snap three-game skid

Associated Press

**BOSTON** — Celtics coach Brad Stevens said giving his team a day off following its worst losing streak of the season felt like the right thing to do.

It certainly re-energized Jayson Tatum.

The third-year forward made six three-pointers and scored a career-high 41 points as Boston cruised past the short-handed New Orleans Pelicans, 140-105 on Saturday night.

Tatum's first career 40-point performance helped the Celtics snap a season-high, three-game skid.

"Shots were going in. It felt good. I felt like we played with a purpose today on both ends, from the beginning of the game," Tatum said.

"I felt like we did our job. I know we haven't been playing well lately. It felt good to start the game off right."

Enes Kanter added 22 points and 19 rebounds, marking season highs in both categories. Gordon Hayward had 19 points and seven assists.

Boston shot 14 of 29 from the three-point line and tied a season high for points.

Frank Jackson scored 22 points for the Pelicans. Jaxson Hayes added 20.

"We just never got any traction offensively or defensively, really," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "They took us out of just about everything we tried to do."

New Orleans playing without Derrick Favors because a right hamstring strain, Jrue Holiday sat his fourth straight game with a left elbow contusion, Kenrich Williams missed his third consecutive game with back soreness and J.J. Redick sat with a left hamstring strain.

**Lakers 125, Thunder 110:** Kyle Kuzma scored a season-high 36 points and the Los Angeles Lakers rolled past the Oklahoma City Thunder 125-110 on Saturday night without stars LeBron James and Anthony Davis.

Lakers coach Frank Vogel said James had a chest cold. James is averaging 25.4 points, a league-leading 10.7 assists and 8.7 rebounds and has helped Los Angeles to the best record in the Western Conference. Davis, who leads the Lakers with 27.1 points per game, missed his second straight game with a gluteus maximus contusion.

It didn't matter. Kuzma, in just his third start of the season, made 15 of 24 shots. Rajon Rondo added 21 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for Los Angeles, which shot 51.5% to win its eighth in a row.

**Rockets 139, Timberwolves 109:** James Harden scored 32 points in three quarters to surpass 20,000 and Houston rolled past visiting Minnesota.

Harden is the 45th player in NBA history to reach 20,000 points, and at 30, the seventh-youngest. He entered the game 10 points away and reached the milestone in fitting fashion, on



WINSLOW TOWNSON/AP

**The Celtics' Jayson Tatum scored a career-high 41 points during Saturday's 140-105 win over the New Orleans Pelicans in Boston.**

a step-back three-pointer midway through the second quarter. He also had 12 rebounds and eight assists.

**Mavericks 109, 76ers 91:** Luka Dončić had 19 points and 12 assists, Dwight Powell scored 10 of his 19 points in a decisive third quarter in host Dallas' victory over Philadelphia.

Tobias Harris had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the 76ers. Philadelphia played its second game without Joel Embiid. The star center is sidelined after surgery for a torn ligament in a finger on his left hand.

**Cavaliers 113, Nuggets 103:** Kevin Love had 19 points and 15 rebounds to lead visiting Cleveland past Denver.

Collin Sexton finished with 25 points, and Tristan Thompson had 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Cavs in their second straight victory.

**Bucks 122, Trail Blazers 101:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 17 rebounds, Khris Middleton scored 30 points and Milwaukee beat host Portland.

Damian Lillard led Portland with 26 points, CJ McCollum had 20 and Carmelo Anthony added 19 points and 11 rebounds. The Trail Blazers have lost eight of 10.

**Bulls 108, Pistons 99:** Zach LaVine scored 25 points and visiting Chicago held off Detroit to snap a six-game losing streak.

Already without injured Blake Griffin, the Pistons lost Andre Drummond when he was ejected early in the third quarter. Drummond threw the ball off the back of Daniel Gafford's head. The exchange also resulted in a technical foul on Gafford.



**MCS**  
MILITARY AUTOSOURCE



Stop by our location on base to learn more or visit: [militaryautosource.com/ford](http://militaryautosource.com/ford)

\*Savings valid through 2/2/20 and vary by model and delivery location. Overseas Military Sales Corporation is an authorized contractor of the Exchange and NEXCOM. Military Autosource is an authorized distributor to sell and distribute Ford vehicles. This advertisement does not express or imply endorsement by the Exchange, NEXCOM, DOD components, or the Federal Government and is not sponsored by them. #F4189

**WHAT DRIVES YOU**

Amazing Clearance Offers  
**SAVE UP TO \$9,000\***



## NHL

# Lightning roll to 10th straight win

By Aaron Bracy  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Tampa Bay got offense from an unlikely source to keep its winning streak going.

Pat Maroon scored the game's only goal, Andrei Vasilevsky made 23 saves and the Lightning tied a club record with their 10th straight win, 1-0 over the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday night.

The Lightning haven't lost since Dec. 21 at Washington, and have outscored opponents 43-17 during their streak. Tampa Bay has tallied 12 unanswered goals, two short of matching a team mark.

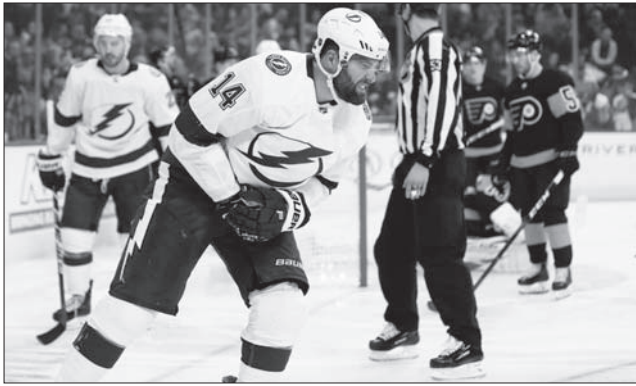
Tampa Bay will look to set a club record for consecutive victories on Sunday night at New Jersey.

"The guys you're used to scoring score a lot for us (didn't score)," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "But when they don't, you need other guys to step up. And that's probably how you get to 10 in a row when everybody's contributing."

Maroon scored with 12:33 left in the second period on a fluky goal. Anthony Cirelli sent a high backhander into the zone from near center ice. Flyers defenseman Matt Niskanen batted it out of the air, but Maroon blocked the puck with two hands. It landed at his feet and he shot past Carter Hart's glove side for his sixth of the season and first goal in 24 games.

The game like that, it's funny that's the goal that goes in," Cooper said. "I think he was the only one that really saw that puck. Everybody else was looking for it. He went hard to the net and he jammed it in. Good awareness by him."

Maroon later left the game after he was hooked by Kevin Hayes and went barreling into the back boards two minutes into the third period. He immediately grabbed his right shoulder and headed to the bench before going



MATT SLODOW/AP

**Tampa Bay Lightning left wing Pat Maroon grins after injuring his right shoulder. He scored his team's only goal in a 1-0 defeat of the Philadelphia Flyers on Saturday, but left the game after his injury.**

per said. "I think he was the only one that really saw that puck. Everybody else was looking for it. He went hard to the net and he jammed it in. Good awareness by him."

Maroon later left the game after he was hooked by Kevin Hayes and went barreling into the back boards two minutes into the third period. He immediately grabbed his right shoulder and headed to the bench before going

to the locker room.

Cooper didn't have an update on Maroon, who was sporting an ice pack on his right shoulder afterward.

Vasilevsky earned his second straight shutout and the 20th of his career. He has been in goal for eight of the victories during the streak. The Lightning defense was stout in front of their netminder, and Vasilevsky was rarely tested. His best save

came five minutes into the third period, when he stopped Travis Sanheim's one-timer from close range with a right pad save.

"I've said this before, a shutout is something the whole team deserves," Vasilevsky said. "The team played great defensively, all the D-men and forwards. Tonight, one goal was enough for us to win because we played good defensively."

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Boston	46	27	13	11	65	154 127
Tampa Bay	44	27	13	4	58	161 129
Toronto	45	24	15	6	54	162 145
Florida	44	23	16	5	51	158 148
Buffalo	45	19	19	7	45	143 146
Montreal	46	19	20	7	45	143 148
Ottawa	45	16	22	7	39	121 154
Detroit	45	12	30	3	27	99 170
Metropolitan Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Washington	45	30	11	4	65	164 138
Pittsburgh	44	27	12	5	59	150 119
N.Y. Islanders	43	27	12	4	58	122 111
Carolina	45	27	16	2	56	150 123
Philadelphia	45	23	16	6	52	140 137
Columbus	46	22	16	8	52	121 124
N.Y. Rangers	44	21	19	4	46	146 149
New Jersey	44	16	21	7	39	117 155

### Western Conference

	Central Division				Pts	GF	GA
	GP	W	L	OT			
St. Louis	46	29	10	7	65	148	124
Dallas	45	26	15	4	56	121	107
Colorado	45	25	15	5	55	162	134
Winnipeg	45	24	17	4	52	141	139
Nashville	43	20	16	7	47	149	145
Minnesota	44	20	18	6	46	134	146
Chicago	46	20	20	6	46	134	150
<b>Pacific Division</b>							
Calgary	47	25	17	5	55	131	139
Arizona	47	25	18	4	54	133	121
Vegas	48	24	18	6	54	149	145
Edmonton	47	24	18	5	53	144	145
Vancouver	45	24	17	4	52	151	142
San Jose	47	21	22	4	46	125	153
Los Angeles	47	18	25	4	40	118	146
Anaheim	45	17	23	5	39	115	143

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

### Saturday's games

Vancouver 6, Buffalo 3  
 Carolina 2, Los Angeles 3  
 Columbus 5, N.Y. Islanders 2 OT  
 Montreal 2, Ottawa 1 OT  
 Tampa Bay 1, Philadelphia 0  
 New Jersey 5, Washington 1  
 Toronto 4, Rangers 2  
 Chicago 4, Anaheim 2  
 Calgary 4, Edmonton 3  
 Columbus 5, Vegas 5  
 San Jose 2, Dallas 1

### Sunday's games

Nashville at Winnipeg  
 Vancouver at Pittsburgh  
 Buffalo at Detroit  
 Pittsburgh at Arizona  
 Toronto at Los Angeles  
 Tampa Bay at New Jersey  
 Calgary at Montreal  
 Anaheim at N.Y. Rangers  
 Boston at Philadelphia  
 Carolina at Washington  
 Chicago at St. Louis  
**Tuesday's games**  
 Vegas at Pittsburgh  
 Boston at Columbus  
 Detroit at N.Y. Islanders  
 Minnesota at Pittsburgh  
 Los Angeles at Tampa Bay  
 New Jersey at Toronto  
 Chicago at Ottawa  
 Vancouver at Winnipeg  
 San Jose at Arizona  
 Dallas at Colorado  
 Nashville at Edmonton  
**Wednesday's games**  
 Chicago at Montreal  
 Philadelphia at St. Louis

### Goaltenders goals against

Through January 11				
Name	Team	GPI	MINS	GA
Travis Sanheim	Pittsburgh	33	1973	41
Anton Khudobin	Dallas	19	1070	38
Chris Driedger	Florida	7	383	21
Darcy Kuemper	Arizona	25	1515	51
Bren Bishop	Dallas	29	1637	61
David Rittich	San Jose	16	935	35
Tuukka Rask	Boston	27	1636	62

### Goaltenders win record

Through January 11				
Player	Team	G	MINS	W
Jordan Binnington	St. Louis	33	1942	22
Andrei Vasilevsky	Tampa Bay	33	1973	22
Frederik Andersen	Toronto	35	2066	21
Connor Hellebuyck	Winnipeg	34	2052	21
Mark-Andre Fleury	Vegas	32	1878	20
Braden Holtby	Washington	32	1895	20
David Rittich	San Jose	16	935	10
Joona Korhonen	Calgary	32	1876	10
Jonas Korpisalo	Edmonton	32	1876	10
Carey Price	Montreal	37	2179	16
David Rittich	San Jose	16	935	17
Sergei Bobrovsky	Florida	34	1894	16
Jacob Markstrom	Vancouver	31	1834	16
Bren Bishop	Dallas	29	1637	15
Darcy Kuemper	Arizona	25	1517	15
Pekka Rinne	Nashville	27	1489	15

### Calendar

**Jan. 26** — All-Star Game, St. Louis.  
**Feb. 15** — NHL Stadium Series: Los Angeles Kings at Colorado Avalanche, Air Canada Centre, Toronto.  
**Feb. 24** — Trade deadline (3 p.m. EST).  
**March 1** — NHL general managers' meeting, Boca Raton, Fla.  
**April 4** — Regular season ends.  
**April 6-8** — Stanley Cup playoffs begin.  
**May 8-24** — IIHF World Championship, Zurich, Switzerland.  
**June 1-6** — NHL scouting combine, Buffalo, N.Y.  
**June 13** — Last possible day of Stanley Cup Final.  
**June 15** — NHL awards, Las Vegas.  
**June 26-27** — NHL draft, Montreal.  
**July 1** — Free agency begins

## Roundup

# Devils' losing streak stymies Capitals

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nico Hischier scored twice, Louis Domingue made 33 saves and the last-place New Jersey Devils routed the NHL-leading Washington Capitals 5-1, snapping the Devils' losing streak at three games.

Blake Coleman scored a short-handed goal, and Nikita Gusev added one moments after a power play ended for the Devils. Miles Wood scored an empty-netter.

The Capitals lost back-to-back games in regulation for the second time this season and have dropped four of seven. Defensive-zone miscues continue to haunt the team, which largely hung All-Star goalie Braden Holtby out to dry as he allowed four goals on 21 shots.

Jakub Vrana's scored for Washington.

**Bruins 3, Islanders 2 (OT):** Patrik Bergqvist scored a power-play goal 1:33 into overtime to lift Boston to a win at New York. Jake DeBrusk and John Moore scored, and Tuukka Rask stopped 35 shots to help the Bruins win their third straight. Boston also improved to 7-1-5 in its last 13 games.

Mathew Barzal had a goal and an assist, and Scott Mayfield also scored for the Islanders. Sempen Varlamov had 30 saves.

**Hurricanes 2, Kings 0:** James Reimer made 41 saves as host Carolina posted a shut-out for the second consecutive game.

Nino Niederreiter scored the opening goal 4:52 into the first period and Reimer took care of the rest to help the Hurricanes earn their

third consecutive win and finish a seven game homestand with a 5-2-0 record. Teuvo Teravainen added an empty-net goal with four seconds remaining.

Los Angeles goalie Jack Campbell was nearly as brilliant as Reimer, stopping 28 of the 29 shots. The Kings lost for the fourth time in five games.

**Blues 5, Rangers 2:** David Perron celebrated his selection to the NHL All-Star Game by scoring in his fourth straight contest, helping host St. Louis beat the Rangers.

Robert Bortuzzo, Vince Dunn, Zach Sanford and Jaden Schwartz also scored for the defending Stanley Cup champions, who are 11-2-1 in their last 14.

The Blues won their eighth straight home game, their longest such streak since winning 10 in a row from April 16-Oct. 12, 2013.

**Canadiens 2, Senators 1 (OT):** Ilya Kovalchuk scored with 52 seconds left in overtime, helping Montreal snap an eight-game losing streak with a win at Ottawa.

Coming into the game, neither team had won since Dec. 23.

**Canucks 6, Sabres 3:** Brock Boeser and Jake Virtanen scored 1:24 apart in the third period, and Vancouver won at Buffalo.

Boeser had two goals and Bo Horvat and J.T. Miller also scored for the Canucks, who had dropped consecutive games by a combined 14-4. Loui Eriksson had an empty-netter, and Jacob Markstrom stopped 25 shots to improve to 7-1 in his last eight games.

**Blackhawks 4, Ducks 2:** Dominik Kubalik scored two goals, Jonathan Toews had a goal and an assist and host Chicago beat Anaheim.

Kubalik has goals in four straight games and 16 for the season, tying him with Buffalo's Victor Olofinse for the NHL rookie lead. The first two-goal game of his career gave the Blackhawks forward eight points in his last five games. Olli Maatta also scored for Chicago, which rebounded after two losses to finish a four-game homestand 2-2-0.

**Blue Jackets 3, Golden Knights 0:** Elvis Merzlikins made 27 saves for his first career shutout and Columbus won at Las Vegas. Merzlikins is a 25-year-old rookie filling in for injured starter Jonas Korpisalo. He improved to 5-6-4 in 17 games.

**Sharks 2, Stars 1:** Brent Burns had a goal and an assist, Patrick Marleau also scored, and host San Jose beat Dallas, spoiling the return of former star Joe Pavelski.

The Flames won their 27th save for the Sharks, who are 5-2-2 over their last nine games after going 1-8-1 in their previous 10.

Jamie Benn scored for the Stars, who had a six-game winning streak halted.

**Flames 4, Oilers 3:** Elias Lindholm scored twice and host Calgary rallied to beat Edmonton.

The Flames won their fifth straight and moved into first place in the tight Pacific Division, one point ahead of Arizona and Vegas. The Oilers are two points back.



## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Clemson rallies for first win at Chapel Hill

With overtime victory, Tigers are 1-59 at North Carolina

By Aaron Beard  
Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Amir Simms hit an overtime-forcing three-pointer with 3.5 seconds left in regulation and Clemson went on to erase decades of futility at North Carolina by beating the Tar Heels 79-76 on Saturday, earning their first win in 60 tries in Chapel Hill.

Simms finished with 20 points for the Tigers (8-7, 2-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), who trailed by 10 with a little more than two minutes left in regulation. But Clemson made a frantic comeback to force the extra period, then came up with enough key baskets to do what no other predecessor had done in school history: walk off the court in Chapel Hill in celebration of a win.

Simms added a critical driving basket with 18.1 seconds left in OT, then the Tigers got a final stop when Garrison Brooks and then Brandon Robinson both missed tying three-pointers on the final possession.

When Robinson's missed at the horn, Clemson players ran to midcourt to cele-



ROBERT WILLET, RALEIGH NEWS/OBSERVER/AP

Clemson coach Brad Brownell embraces assistant coach Anthony Goins as they celebrate the win at North Carolina Saturday.

brate, while John Newman III ran to wrap coach Brad Brownell in a huge hug on the sideline.

Meanwhile, Robinson laid on the court after his miss, capping a day that saw him go for a career-high 27 points but come up

a shot short.

UNC (8-8, 1-4) came into this one 59-0 against Clemson all-time in Chapel Hill for the longest home winning streak against one opponent in NCAA history. That included 28-0 in the Smith Center, UNC's

campus arena that opened in January 1986. The win leaves coach Roy Williams tied with late mentor Dean Smith for fourth on the Division I men's career coaching wins list with 879 victories since the Tar Heels beat Yale on Dec. 30.

### Big picture

**Clemson:** Beyond the long run of bad history here, the Tigers were trying to win consecutive games for the first time since starting 5-1. And they looked on their way to another frustrating loss in Chapel Hill when they trailed 68-58 with 2:08 left, only to complete an improbable turnaround and make history.

**UNC:** The Tar Heels were struggling with their worst record through 15 games under Williams. And they were battered entering this one, from top player Cole Anthony missing his seventh straight game following knee surgery to the pregame announcement that freshman point guard Jeremiah Francis wouldn't play due to left-knee soreness. Williams said Friday he doesn't say much about the streak with his team beyond noting it has to end at some point and the goal should be to "try to put it off another year." And now, that run is over.

### Roundup

## No. 14 Kentucky downs Alabama for 1,000th SEC win

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Immanuel Quickley scored the game's final five points and finished with 19, and the No. 14 Kentucky Wildcats topped the Alabama Crimson Tide 76-67 for their 1,000th Southeastern Conference victory.

The Wildcats (12-3, 3-0) led by 15 early in the second half before a cold stretch allowed the Crimson Tide to climb within 63-60 with just over five minutes remaining. But Quickley stepped up down the stretch.

Kentucky beat Alabama for the 12th time in 13 meetings despite shooting just 32% after intermission. The Wildcats are 1,000-281 overall in SEC play.

Herbert Jones had 18 points for the Crimson Tide (8-7, 1-2), and John Pettit Jr. finished with 16.

Kentucky made 9 of 15 three-point shots. That was one shy of the season-high 10 it made against Lamar.

**No. 1 Gonzaga 87, Loyola Marymount 62:** Filip Petrushev scored 16 points, Corey Kispert had 15 and the No. 1 Bulldogs won on the road against the Lions.

It was Gonzaga's 31st straight regular-season win in West Coast Conference play, tying them with the San Francisco squads led by Bill Russell and K.C. Jones for the second-longest streak in conference history. Pepperdine has the record at 32.

The Bulldogs (18-1, 4-0) put five players in double figures. Ryan Woolridge scored 13, and Admon Gilder added 12.

Eli Scott paced Loyola Marymount (7-10, 1-2) with 20 points.

**No. 2 Duke 90, Wake Forest 59:** Tre Jones scored 23 points to lead the host Blue Devils to the runaway victory.

Cassius Stanley added 16 points for Duke (15-1, 5-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), which shot 53% from the field.

The Blue Devils scored on eight of their first nine possessions to take control and led 49-23 at halftime.

Torry Johnson and Olivier Sarr each

scored 13 points for the Demon Deacons (8-7, 1-4). Sharone Wright Jr. added a season-high 11 points.

**No. 4 Baylor 67, No. 3 Kansas 55:** Jared Butler scored 22 points, McCiio Teague added 16 and the Bears got their first win at Allen Fieldhouse.

Freddie Gillespie added 13 points for Baylor (13-1, 3-0 Big 12), which snapped a whole slew of ignominious streaks with the victory in Lawrence. It beat a top-five team on the road for the first time in 22 attempts.

Isaiah Moss scored 15 points for the Jayhawks (12-3, 2-1), who lost leading scorer Devon Dotson to an injury for a long stretch midway through the game and could never solve the Bears' league-best defense.

Kansas was 4-for-15 beyond the arc and committed 14 turnovers that Baylor turned into 21 points.

**No. 5 Auburn 82, Georgia 60:** Samir Doughty had 17 points, and the host Tigers shot 53% percent from the field in the win.

**No. 7 San Diego State 83, Boise State 65:** KJ Feagin scored 16 of his season-high 23 points in the first half and the Aztecs played their best home game all season, opening with a 23-9 outburst and beating the Broncos.

Yanni Wetzell added 20 points, Malachi Flynn 19 and Matt Mitchell 10 for San Diego State (17-0, 6-0 Mountain West), which, with Auburn, remained one of two unbeaten teams.

**No. 9 Oregon 78, Arizona State 69:** Payton Pritchard scored 29 points and the host Ducks held off the Sun Devils.

Much of the game was a personal duel between Pritchard and Arizona State's Remy Martin, who also had 29 points.

Chris Duarte added 20 points for Oregon (14-3, 3-1 Pac-12). It has won 11 of its last 12 games against the Sun Devils.

**Indiana 66, No. 11 Ohio State 54:** Devonte Green scored 19 points, Rob Phinisee had 13 in his first start of the season, and the host Hoosiers handed the Buckeyes their fourth straight loss.

Indiana (13-3, 3-2 Big Ten) earned its second straight win despite going 20-for-36 at the line. Phinisee had four of the team's 11 steals.

**No. 13 Louisville 67, Notre Dame 64:** Jordan Nwora scored 20 points, and the Cardinals won on the road.

Reserve guard Ryan McMahon scored 17 points for Louisville (13-3, 4-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), which won its second straight. Dwayne Sutton had 10 points and 14 rebounds.

**No. 15 Dayton 88, Massachusetts 60:** Hoyt Hoppin scored 16 points before leaving with an ankle injury early in the second half, and the host Flyers pulled away for the win.

Dayton (14-2, 3-0 Atlantic 10) took control right away, building a 20-point lead, and remained unbeaten at home.

Toppin got tangled with Samba Diallo at midcourt and went down hard at 15:13 of the second half. Coach Anthony Grant said it looks as if Toppin sprained his left ankle, and "the next 24 hours will tell us more in terms of how it reacts."

UMass (7-9, 1-2) never recovered from the Flyers' opening surge. Tre Mitchell led the Minutemen with 16 points.

**No. 16 Villanova 80, Georgetown 66:** The host Wildcats' Saddiq Bey hit eight three-pointers and scored a career-high 33 points.

Bey, a 6-foot-8 sophomore forward, was 10 for 15 from the floor, including 8 of 10 on threes. Jeremiah Robinson-Earl scored 14 points, and Collin Gillespie had 11 for Villanova (12-3, 3-1 Big East).

**No. 17 West Virginia 66, No. 22 Texas Tech 54:** Miles McBride scored a season-high 22 points and Oscar Tshiebwe grabbed 17 rebounds, leading the host Mountaineers.

West Virginia (13-2, 2-1 Big 12) continued a remarkable turnaround by surpassing its total of 12 wins from last season, when the Mountaineers finished last in the league.

**Syracuse 63, No. 18 Virginia 55 (OT):** Buddy Boehem scored nine of his 14 points in overtime and the Orange got the win on the road.

Syracuse scored 20 points in the extra period after netting just 19 in the second half.

Freshman Joe Girard had 19 points for the Orange (9-7, 2-3 Atlantic Coast Conference), and Elijah Hughes had 18.

Jay Huff had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Cavaliers (11-4, 3-2), who lost back-to-back games for the first time since the 2016-17 season. Mamadi Diakita and Kihei Clark each added 13 points.

**Wisconsin 58, No. 20 Penn State 49:** Micah Potter scored 18 of his career-high 24 points in the first half and grabbed 13 rebounds to lead the visiting Badgers.

Brad Davidson had 11 points and 13 rebounds for Wisconsin (10-6, 3-2 Big Ten), which bounced back nicely after losing 71-70 to Illinois on Wednesday night.

**Colgate 70, Navy 63:** Nelly Cummings had 20 points as the visiting Raiders won their seventh consecutive game.

Rapalos Ivanaukas had 16 points for Colgate (13-4, 4-0 Patriot League).

Cam Davis had 22 points for the Midshipmen (8-7, 2-2). John Carter Jr. added 18 points. Tyler Nelson had 10 points.

**New Mexico 84, Air Force 78:** JaQuan Lyle scored 20 points with four assists before fouling out to lead the host Lobos over the Falcons.

Two big blocks from New Mexico's Zane Martin and Corey Manigault in the closing minutes helped the Lobos (15-3, 4-1 Mountain West Conference) secure the victory.

Air Force (8-9, 2-3) got a season-high 26 points and nine boards from Lavelle Scottie.

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## ND State wins 8th FCS title in 9 years

STEPHEN HAWKINS  
Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Redshirt freshman quarterback Trey Lance ran for 166 yards, with a clutch 44-yard touchdown to start the fourth quarter, and North Dakota State held on to claim its eighth FCS national championship with a 28-20 win over James Madison on Saturday.

James Hendricks had an interception at the goal line in the final seconds for the Bison (16-0), who stretched their FCS-record winning streak to 37 and completed the first 16-win season in any division since Yale in 1894.

After stopping Lance short on a fourth-and-2 at its 36 with 2:51 left, James Madison (14-2) drove to the 3. Hendricks, who earlier had a 20-yard touchdown run on a fake field goal, then picked off the pass by Ben DiNucci. James' 4-yard score came on a third-and-23 play to open the fourth quarter and put the Bison up 28-13.

Riley Stapleton's 5-yard TD catch with 7 minutes left was his second of the game. He also had two TD catches in the national title game two years ago, when the Dukes lost to North Dakota State. That was a season after they won a semifinal game at the Fargo dome and then beat Youngstown State for the title.

The Bison won their eighth FCS championship in nine years, after five NCAA Division II national titles between 1983-90.

While Lance was only 6 of 10 passing for 72 yards, he has now attempted 289 passes for the Bison without ever throwing an interception. He made a season-high 30 times in the finale.

Stapleton had a 5-yard TD on the opening drive of the game for James Madison, but the Bison quickly got even on Adam Co-field's 1-yard TD run.

North Dakota State used some trickery to score twice in the second quarter. Receiver Phoenix Sproles swept around and faked a reverse handoff before running 38 yards for a touchdown, and Hendricks lined up for an apparent field goal when he took the snap, then got up and ran to the end zone.

### Big picture

**James Madison:** The Dukes got off to an impressive start, going 86 yards on 17 plays and taking half of the first quarter for their opening drive. That was the only time they led.

**North Dakota State:** The Bison's eighth appearance in the FCS championship matched the most with Georgia Southern, which won six times. ... The only two DI winning streaks longer than ND State are Washington (40, from 1908-14) and Oklahoma's record 48 in a row from 1953-57.



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Clemson quarterback Trevor Lawrence, right front, arrives with the team in New Orleans on Friday ahead of the College Football Playoff championship.

## Matchup: QB Lawrence should help Clemson keep pace with Burrow, LSU

### FROM BACK PAGE

The stars of Clemson's defense are versatile back-seven players such as All-America linebacker Isaiah Simmons and strong safety Klavon Wallace, both of whom can play multiple positions, and free safety Tanner Muse.

Mellor said Burrow was the top-graded quarterback in the country this season when facing pressure.

"Pressure doesn't matter in this game as much as allowing Simmons and Muse to roam the back end freely," Mellor said.

LSU has five players who can consistently win one-on-one matchups in the passing game in wide receivers Ja'Marr Chase, Justin Jefferson and Terrace Marshall Jr., tight end Thaddeus Moss and running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire. All have more than 40 catches, allowing Burrow to feast on a defense's weak links.

"They move those guys inside and force your linebackers and safeties to cover," Fisher said. In the semifinal against Oklahoma, Chase, an All-American, was locked down by the Sooners. No big deal: Justin Jefferson caught 14 passes and scored four touchdowns, mostly working from the slot.

Burrow's raw numbers are eye-popping (55 touchdown passes and 5,208 yards). Go deeper and it gets even more impressive. He rarely forces throws into tight coverage, but when he does, he completes those passes at a higher rate than any quarterback in the country, Mellor said.

"There isn't really much you can do to stop them," he said.

**When Clemson has the ball:** Over his last seven games, Lawrence has been the highest-graded quarterback in college football by Pro Football Focus.

As prolific as LSU has been offensively, Clemson has the weapons to keep pace, with two-time Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year Travis Etienne at running back and wide receivers Tee Higgins, Justin Ross (both 6-foot-4) and Amari Rodgers.

Higgins has been dominant, averaging 19.9 yards per catch with 13 touchdowns. Ross has been good, but not quite the breakout star he was during last season's playoff.

LSU has its own \$2 million per year defensive coordinator in Dave Brandon, who will try to frustrate Lawrence with a plan built around two of the best cornerbacks in the country: Kristian Fulton is a



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

LSU wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase poses during media day on Saturday in New Orleans.

possible first-round NFL draft pick while freshman Derek Stingley Jr., an All-American, was PFF's highest-graded cornerback.

Safety Grant Delpit also grades well in coverage, but his tackling has been spotty. That has improved of late after a high ankle sprain healed.

"Avoiding those three (in coverage) is the biggest win for Clemson," Mellor said.

The LSU defensive line is huge, with three 300-pounders usually on the field at once.

"Against that 3-4, it's hard to get a push inside," said Fisher, who expects Clemson to run outside the tackles.

Etienne is maybe the toughest back in the country to take down so getting him out in space is the way to go. Mellor said the junior set a PFF record by forcing missed tackles on 45% of his carries. The previous best was 33% last year by Iowa State's David Montgomery.

Could it be another busy day on the ground for Lawrence? The quarterback set career highs with 16 carries and 107 yards against Ohio State. He completed a season-low 54.5% against the Buckeyes, but was 3-for-3 on a late 94-yard, go-ahead touchdown drive.

"People get hung up on stats, but it's about making plays when you really need them and both of these quarterbacks can do that," Fisher said. "They both have the 'it' factor."

**Russo's pick:** LSU 35-27.



**National Championship**  
No. 1 LSU (14-0)  
vs. No. 3 Clemson (14-0)

AFN-Sports  
2:15 a.m. Tuesday CET  
10:15 a.m. Tuesday JKT

**Line:** LSU by 5.5.

**Series record:** LSU 2-1.

**What's at stake:** Clemson, the Atlantic Coast Conference champion, is trying to repeat as national champion and become the first team to do that since Alabama in 2011-12. The Tigers would also enter even more exclusive college football company with a third national title in four years. In the AP poll era (starting in 1936), only Alabama (2009, 2011-12), Nebraska (1994-95, 97) and Notre Dame (1946-47, '49) accomplished that feat. It would stamp the Tigers as a true dynasty.

LSU, the Southeastern Conference champ, is looking for its first national championship since 2007 and fourth overall (2003 BCS, 1958 AP).

### Key matchup

**Clemson LB Isaiah Simmons vs. LSU QB Joe Burrow:** Linebacker vs. quarterback might make you think Burrow is going to be running the triple-option, but Simmons is a different kind of linebacker. The Butkus Award winner lines up all over the defense run by coordinator Brent Venables. Simmons could be the best way for Clemson to fluster Burrow. Nothing has worked so far this season as the Heisman Trophy winner has thrown for an SEC-record 55 touchdowns and 5,208 yards.

### Players to watch

**Clemson — RB Travis Etienne:** On an offense with an array of elite playmakers, Etienne is the best and most versatile weapon. He ran for 1,538 yards and 8.0 per carry. Ohio State slowed him down on the ground in the semifinal, only to see him catch three passes for 98 yards and two touchdowns.

**LSU — DE Klavon Chaisson:** The Tigers had 35 sacks and Chaisson is far and away their best individual pass rusher. Injuries slowed the sophomore early this season, but he led the team with 6.5 sacks, including 4.5 the last three games.

### Facts & figures

Clemson is on a 29-game winning streak, including 25-0 with sophomore QB Trevor Lawrence starting. The Tigers can become the 13th team in the history of major college football to win 30 straight games, and just the seventh team to accomplish the feat since 1950. ... Burrow has completed 77.6% of his passes. The NCAA record is 76.7% by Texas' Colt McCoy in 2008. ... LSU won its last two national championships at the Superdome in New Orleans (2003 vs. Oklahoma and 2007 vs. Ohio State), and lost its last title game appearance there to Alabama after the 2011 season. ... Clemson coach Dabo Swinney could become the 12th coach to win at least three national championships in the AP poll era. ... LSU coach Ed Orgeron is 11-3 against teams ranked in the top 10 at the time of the game.

More AP college football:  
<https://apnews.com/Collegefootball>  
and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Top25](https://twitter.com/AP_Top25)

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## ANALYSIS

## One solid guarantee: The Tigers will win



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

LSU head coach Ed Orgeron, left, and Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney pose with the national championship trophy after a news conference Sunday in New Orleans.

## Why Clemson wins: Defensive coordinator Venables will be able to slow LSU, Burrow

By PETE IACOBELLI  
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — No. 1 LSU has been unstoppable this season but the top-ranked team in the nation hasn't faced Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables this season.

It is a given that in prepping for the College Football championship game Venables spent plenty of long, dizzying nights in his meeting rooms dissecting the heart of LSU's offense. He has been looking to uncover ways to impede LSU's offensive juggernaut that's been led by Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow and a bevy of NFL-ready receivers.

"They do a great job of spreading you out and making you defend every patch of grass on the field," Venables said Saturday. "I'm so sick of seeing" LSU's playmakers.

He'll see them a final time Monday night when No. 1 LSU (14-0; No. 1 CFP) plays No. 3 Clemson (14-0; No. 3 CFP) for the title.

Venables faced a challenge this season just getting his own group up to speed after losing seven starters, including four defensive linemen — All-American tackles Christian Wilkins and Dexter Lawrence and end Clelin Ferrell were all first-round NFL draft picks.

But relying on a talented, versatile linebacker Isaiah Simmons, Venables created a tough-minded, hard-hitting group that's allowing fewer yards than the 2018 national champs.

In the moments when Clemson has been pressed, its defense has not panicked. Faced with a two-point try at North Carolina in September in the final minutes that would have surely ended this title run, Clemson stifled the run to escape with a 21-20 victory.

The Tigers' defensive improvement was demonstrated again in the Fiesta Bowl as Ohio State moved into the red zone three times in the opening half but had to settle for field goals each time. With the Buck-

eyes driving at the end for a go-ahead score, it was safety Nolan Turner (beaten for a touchdown earlier) who had the interception to clinch things for Clemson.

LSU will score, but like Ohio State, just not enough against Clemson's revamped defense to prevent the Tigers from South Carolina from wrapping up their third national title in four seasons.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said Venables is friendly and personal off the field, but that changes when preparing for an opponent.

Other reasons Clemson will beat LSU:

### Poised Trevor

Clemson has a championship-proven leader on offense in quarterback Trevor Lawrence. The sophomore hasn't lost a game in college and doesn't plan to start now. Lawrence said that he and Swinney joke how the rule book never says "you have to lose." Lawrence hasn't since he arrived, a perfect 29-0.

### Etienne's run

Clemson tailback Travis Etienne thought he would be thrilling LSU fans on the field one day instead of making them angry. The Jennings, La., native seemed a perfect fit for the Bayou Bengals coming out of high school. But LSU took a different route and Etienne went to Clemson. In three seasons, he's twice been the ACC player of the year and a game-changing back looking for a second national title.

### Wide-open wideouts

The focus this week has been on LSU's trio of standout wide receivers and their ability to impact the championship game. Clemson has a couple of receivers, too, who know how to make big plays. Tee Higgins and Justin Ross are tall, talented and highly regarded just like LSU's La'Marr Chase, Justin Jefferson and Terrace Marshall Jr.

## Why LSU wins: Home, dome advantage, improved defense will thwart Clemson

By BRETT MARTEL  
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — It would be one thing if all top-ranked LSU could hang its hat on was Heisman Trophy winning quarterback Joe Burrow leading what is arguably one of the greatest offenses in the history of college football.

But LSU's defense has looked remarkably improved in recent high-stakes games against Georgia in the SEC championship and Oklahoma in the CFP semifinal at the Peach Bowl. And that unit gets an additional boost with 2018 co-sack leader Michael Divinity returning fresh for the final.

Then there's quasi-home advantage that LSU (14-0, No. 1 CFP) is bound to enjoy Monday night against No. 3 Clemson (14-0, No. 3 CFP) thanks to playing in the Superdome, just 80 miles or so down the Mississippi River from Baton Rouge.

"Ever since we knew the national championship was going to be in New Orleans it was a goal of ours to earn the right to be here," said LSU coach Ed Orgeron, who grew up about 60 miles southwest of New Orleans.

LSU comes into the Superdome with projected top quarterback in this year's NFL draft and a pro-style spread that led the nation with 564.2 yards per game.

Burrow has many as five targets on any given play who can be difficult to stop. It starts with the receiving trio of Justin Jefferson, Ja'Marr Chase and Terrace Marshall Jr. and continues with dynamic running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire out of the backfield and transfer tight end Thaddeus Moss, son of Hall of Fame receiver Randy Moss.

Other reasons LSU will beat Clemson Monday night:

### Edwards-Helaire's health

LSU's top running back was coming back from a hamstring injury in the Peach

Bowl, when he had just two carries for 14 yards. Edwards-Helaire rushed for about 1,300 yards and 16 TDs this season to go along with 50 catches for 399 yards and a score.

He said uncertainty over how his hamstring will hold up is "obviously" on his mind, but also that he has gained confidence in his health from being able to "put my foot in the ground full speed, get up field full speed, run routes the way I wanted to run them."

### Stopping power

While LSU's defense looked vulnerable when it allowed 614 yards and 37 points at Mississippi on Nov. 16, those days appear to be over.

LSU has held all of its past four opponents to 28 or fewer points, resulting in lopsided victories each time. The unit gets a boost from Divinity, who had three sacks in five games before briefly leaving the team for personal reasons. After he came back, he was held out for previous violations of team rules but is now set to rejoin his unit in the biggest game of the year.

### Dome advantage

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney doesn't hesitate to present the Superdome's proximity to LSU as another challenge for which Clemson must prepare.

"We're the only team that took a plane here. So yeah, this is definitely a road game," Swinney said. "How cool is that, for them to be able to just hop on a bus and ride up the road. ... It would be like us playing for the national championship in Greenville (S.C.)."

Clemson QB Trevor Lawrence will have to overcome crowd noise, not to mention a defense that has made life difficult for Georgia's Jake Fromm and Oklahoma's Jalen Hurts in its past two outings.



## SPORTS



**Ground down**  
Henry, Titans overpower  
Ravens » **NFL, Page 18**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

LSU wide receiver  
Justin Jefferson,  
top, and Clemson  
linebacker Isaiah  
Simmons.

AP photos

# Interesting matchup

Versatile Clemson defense  
squares off against LSU's  
aggressive pass attack

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
*Associated Press*

**T**op-ranked LSU and Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow head into the national championship game peaking, matching their record-setting offense with a healthy and improving defense.

Clemson has not lost since sophomore quarterback Trevor Lawrence joined the team in 2018. The third-ranked Tigers are looking for their third national title in four seasons and second straight.

With the help of Texas A&M's Jimbo Fisher, the only coach to face both Clemson and LSU, and Pro Football Focus college analyst Cam Mellor, the matchups that could make the difference Monday night in New Orleans:

**When LSU has the ball:** What can Clemson defensive coordinator Brent Venables cook up to stop LSU's hyper-aggressive passing game that often attacks with five receivers?

Clemson is playing a 3-3-5 defensive alignment and using lots of eight-man coverage. Lacking dominant defensive lineman, Venables has needed to be creative to pressure the quarterback.

"Brent's going to blitz," Fisher said. "But LSU has been good at either picking it up or Burrow identifying it and getting the ball out quickly. Or he can scramble away from it and keep his eyes downfield. He is so patient."

SEE MATCHUP ON PAGE 22

## Inside:

- Why Clemson/LSU can win, Page 23
- ND State captures FCS title, Page 22

**Tigers finally score win in Chapel Hill** » College hoops, Page 21



027664 463149